

Gorbachev strips party of grip on media

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev effectively stripped the Communist Party of its grip on the state-run media Sunday, ordering that no single party or group should monopolise broadcasting. In a growing democracy which becomes law immediately, Gorbachev said the change in the nature of the country's television and radio broadcasting. Through the party will lose its grip on the media and independent parties will be able to open their own stations, Gorbachev made clear that the government will retain ultimate control of the state-run broadcasting network. The decree rejects Gorbachev's determination over the past two years to transfer power from the party to the government. Individual republics, many eager to at least loosen their links with Moscow, will be given more power over local television and radio stations.

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Skimpy dress prompted Egyptian attack

CAIRO (R) — A 25-year-old Egyptian accused of setting fire to a Red Sea hotel, in which 25 European tourists died, acted out of disgust at what he considered the obscene behaviour and skimpy dress of foreigners, security sources said. The sources said the man, a painter from Dikiria in the Nile Governorate of Daqidiya, told police he planned his attack in the resort village of Harghada four days ago. "He acted alone and was upset by what he saw as the obscene behaviour and dress of tourists in Harghada," one source said. The painter has been charged with the murder of a 26-year-old West German woman and a Frenchwoman who died in the blaze which the sources said began in the hotel restaurant. He also faces charges of attempted murder against nine other people. The Red Sea coast, favoured as a winter resort, attracts thousands of mainly young European package tourists every year. While most tourist brochures advise visitors to Egypt to cover their legs and arms and behave decorously in public, few appear to do so at beach resorts.

Soviet team to discuss emigres with PLO, Jordan

TUNIS (R) — A Soviet parliamentary delegation arrived in Tunisia Sunday for talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel. The delegation, led by praesidium member Valentyn Tetenov, will discuss the influx with the PLO and will later visit Jordan and Syria, Soviet sources said. PLO sources said the delegation might meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat before leaving for Amman Thursday. Tetenov is chairman of the Soviet parliament committee on transport. A major issue in the emigration debate has been whether Moscow should allow direct flights to Israel.

Militias battle in South Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbullah militias fought with machineguns and mortars in South Lebanon Sunday, security sources said. There was no immediate word on casualties in the three-hour battle in the Iqlim Al Toufah area, a mountainous strip some 40 kilometres south of Beirut, the sources said.

Bhutto in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Sunday on the last leg of a tour of Arab states seeking support in her confrontation with India over Kashmir. Bhutto was received by the prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, with whom she will hold talks during her two-day stay. She was scheduled to fly home Monday at the end of the tour, which has also taken her to Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco and Algeria.

Bomb attacks kill 30 in Pakistani town

HYDERABAD (R) — Thirty people were killed and more than 100 injured in a rash of bomb attacks on Sunday in the southwestern Pakistani town of Hyderabad, doctors said. The five blasts, which occurred at four crowded places in the troubled Sind province town and inside a moving train within a period of 30 minutes, were followed by gun-fights between rival ethnic groups, witnesses said. There was no immediate information about who had planted what police called powerful home-made bombs, whose explosions coincided with a protest strike called by the nationalist Jay Sind movement.

Arab envoy arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi arrived in Beirut Sunday in another attempt to mediate a solution to Lebanon's civil war, political sources said. Brahimi, due to meet Prime Minister Salim Al Hoes, is trying to implement last year's Arab-brokered peace pact aimed at ending the 15-year conflict.

Goulding in Tyre

TYRE (AP) — Marrack Goulding, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, arrived Sunday for a visit with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). U.N. sources said. The sources said Goulding's private plane arrived at Beirut airport in the early afternoon.

S. Arabia, Iran keep up war of words

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia and Iran continued their war of words Sunday over the Hajj tunnel disaster, with a Saudi newspaper branding Iranian leaders as "sick" and an Iranian daily demanding an official "apology" to the Muslim world. The Saudi daily Al Jazira said Tehran had missed an opportunity, created by last month's devastating earthquake, to regain world respect by claiming that Saudi leaders planned the disaster in which more than 1,400 pilgrims died. "The behaviour of Iran's sick rulers dashed the hopes... and eliminated the opportunity, awaited by everybody, for Iran's leaders to go back to their senses and wisdom," the paper said.

Nabulsi explains Petra Bank moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi Sunday reaffirmed that the CBJ was fully committed to protecting and guaranteeing the deposits of Petra Bank transferred to the Housing Bank and that the CBJ had made special arrangements to meet the urgent requirements of account holders for funds in the interim period until the transfer process is completed.

The CBJ governor, speaking in an interview with Jordan Television after a visit to the CBJ by His Majesty King Hussein, also gave the first official confirmation that the deposits of Petra Bank amounted to around JD 100 million. According to Nabulsi, the Economic Security Committee (ESC) has taken four key decisions related to the fate of Petra Bank. These, he said, are:

— A reversal of an earlier decision to merge Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank and the appointment of a new committee to run the affairs of the Jordan Gulf Bank and to work out arrangements to ensure its continued operations.

— Transfer of all Petra Bank deposits and accounts in dinars as well as in foreign currencies to the Housing Bank. (This process

is expected to be completed by July 21). In the meantime, account holders who might need urgent funds can deposit their Petra Bank deposit certificates at the Central Bank and obtain money. Once the transfer process is completed, depositors will have the full right to exercise their options with the deposits.

— Liquidation of Petra Bank. — Efforts to ensure that Petra Bank employees, who would be continued to be employed during the liquidation period, secure alternate employment with other banking institutions in the country. Some of them will be absorbed in a new investment and export bank, he said.

"The banking and other financial institutions in Jordan are big enough to absorb Petra Bank employees," Nabulsi said. "The banking sector should share its responsibility towards finding a solution to the problem."

The choice of the Housing Bank to receive Petra Bank deposits, Nabulsi said, was made in consideration of its "high reputation and highly professional management." He expressed confidence that most of the depositors would opt to maintain their deposits with the Housing Bank. The decision to liquidate Petra Bank was taken not because it

was broke, Nabulsi said. After eight months of scrutiny of the bank's books and situation, it was found that its liabilities were much higher than its assets, and there was no way to ensure its survival "no matter what we can do," Nabulsi said. He said the bank had exhausted all of its capital as well as reserves.

He added that the Central Bank had injected money to Petra Bank to prop up the institution since it was taken over in August last year. He did not give any figures, but said part of the CBJ funds could be retrieved through the liquidation process, which contains special provisions to ensure speed and efficiency. The final outcome of the process, he said, is expected to be the creation of "an economically sound and profitable banking institution."

In answer to a question what could be done to avoid such collapses as that of Petra Bank, Nabulsi said there could not be any total guarantee that they could be averted anywhere in the world. "But this does not mean that we should not learn a lesson from what happened to Petra Bank," he said. He called for reconsideration of existing banking regulations with a view to plugging all loopholes.

Petra Bank staff vow to fight

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra Bank employees vowed to fight for their right to be appointed in similar positions with the same conditions as they had at Petra Bank and many said they and their children would go on a hunger strike if they have to in support of a call by their association Saturday night.

An Economic Security Committee (ESC) decision last week liquidating the Petra Bank left the 700 employees — with 3,500 dependents — insecure and uncertain about what will happen to them as a result.

"If we don't get similar jobs with the same conditions, positions and salaries in other financial institutions, I and many others and our children will go on a hunger strike until our rights are fulfilled," Mary Aghabi, an employee at Petra Bank told the Jordan Times Sunday.

At a meeting held Saturday night by the Banking and Insurance Employees Association (BIEA) for Petra Bank employees, BIEA President Haidar Rashid vowed to support them in any steps they wanted to ensure that they are placed in similar positions. "You can fight for your rights, and your battle can start here now in this meeting and end with a hunger strike in front of the House

and Prime Ministry until you receive honourable jobs with the same conditions as those you had at Petra Bank," Rashid told 250 employees.

In a statement sent to the minister of labour, the Central Bank governor and the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the association called on the government to "disclose the names of those responsible for the deterioration of Petra Bank, bring them to justice and reveal the steps taken to return the money that was embezzled."

The statement also called on Parliament deputies to "play their proper roles to solve the Petra Bank problem."

The main element of the employees' argument is that an agreement they signed with the management of the bank in April this year and endorsed by the Ministry of Labour had contained a stipulation guaranteeing that no Petra Bank employee will lose his or her job regardless of the fate of the financially troubled institution.

Many employees expressed disenchanted with members of Parliament.

"In five Parliament sessions on unemployment, 700 more people were joining the 150,000 unemployed sector in the Kingdom," said an employee.

Although 30 deputies were invited to the meeting Saturday

night, four had "previous engagements and could not come, and the representative of the Islamic Bloc in Parliament said he wanted a formal memo and did not show up," according to one employee who did not want to be identified. Only Deputy Bassam Haddadin was present at the meeting.

The bank employees, who were not told what they should do after the liquidation of the bank, are preparing a petition to the prime minister demanding that their future be clarified.

At the meeting, the personnel officer, Mazen Saket, told the employees that the most important factor at this time was to unite their efforts, "otherwise, all of us will end up on the streets."

Saket told the Jordan Times that although "marital law was frozen in the country, Petra Bank is the only institution that still falls under the law."

Sawsan Jarrar, an active employee, told the Jordan Times that "our destiny is the same — from the manager to the coffee boy. We will all be on the street unless we all stick together and fight for our rights."

The employees interviewed by the Jordan Times Sunday said they would not accept a one year compensation for losing their jobs. "What is supposed to happen

(Continued on page 4)

Substitutes for defence law — another landmark for Jordan

By Joumana Helasa and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Legal Committee of the Lower House of Parliament meets tomorrow to discuss the much-awaited substitute legislation for the 1935 Defence Law as pledged by the government, which has cleared the way for the debate on the floor by revoking the jurisdiction of martial law authorities in almost all areas.

Few details have emerged of the new defence law, which, senior officials have emphasised, will not automatically replace the 1935 legislation under whose provisions martial law was declared in the Kingdom in 1967. "The new law will be enforced only in cases of extreme emergency," said a senior official. "Enforcement of the law would need a recommendation from the Council of Ministers and a royal decree," he said. "One could say that it is a stand-by law to deal with national crises which affect security and stability of the country."

In addition to the draft defence law, a package of laws submitted to the Lower House by the government includes a series of provisions and amendments dealing with va-

rious issues which were in the domain of martial law. These cover economic crimes, including bribery, embezzlement and corruption, robbery, violations of Ministry of Supply regulations, possession of unlicensed arms and ammunition, membership in a communist party, affiliation with or support for communism, affiliation to any banned or unlicensed political party, assaulting government employees, army and police officers or obstructing their official duty, firing arms for no reason in residential areas, forgery of banknotes and coins, tampering with passports, and murder or attempt of murder for motives of revenge.

The government, in line with a promise made to parliament in January, froze all provisions of the martial law and no cases were sent to military trial although many crimes committed in the Kingdom since then would have normally been assigned to military courts. Officials cited as an example the case of a major clash on May 12 at the Ramtha border between supporters of a convicted who died in prison and security forces. A civilian court ruled that the case be sent to the martial law authorities, but an appeals court overturned the decision and sent it back to the regular court at Ramtha.

The final step in abolishing martial law regulations came last week when a royal decree was issued revoking the jurisdiction of military courts. In effect, the move

could mean that a "national security court," which was set up in 1959 and made mostly dormant with the proclamation of the martial law in 1967, will now be revived to handle cases related to sale of land to the "enemy," drug trafficking and dealing, and espionage; external and internal security, possession or use of weapons with the aim of undermining security, sabotage, illegal gang activities, and slandering the Monarch. Since 1967, the court has mostly been trying cases related to the sale of land in the occupied territories to Israelis by Palestinians.

Rulings of the "national security court" are not subject to appeal. (Martial law court rulings were also unappealable). But the prime minister can order retrial of cases by the same court if he deems so. The court has three judges, either civilians or military officers.

The revocation of martial law jurisdiction does not extend to cases related to the Petra Bank affair. "Petra Bank cases will be the last of their nature to go on trial by a military court," said Hussein Mijaly, a member of the Lower House and a former president of the Jordan Bar Association.

(According to informed legal sources, no case related to Petra Bank has been sent to the military court yet. Investigations and

(Continued on page 4)



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi during a visit he paid to the Central Bank Sunday (Petra photo)

King visits CBJ, briefed on monetary, banking situation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday paid a visit to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and held a meeting with Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the CBJ's deputy governors.

The King listened to a briefing on the monetary and banking situations in general.

Nabulsi assured the King that the process of building the foreign currency reserves was running smoothly in accordance with the targets set out by the bank.

Nabulsi also said monetary stability had been achieved for more than eight months and assured the King of the stability of the exchange rate of the dinar.

In a statement to Petra, Nabulsi said that he briefed the King on banking procedures taken during

the last three days to correct and rectify the situation of Petra Bank, particularly issues related to transfer of deposits, liquidation of the bank, safety of deposits and safeguarding the rights of depositors and bank employees.

The governor reviewed steps the bank will take to absorb Petra Bank employees and safeguard their rights.

PLO seeks to ensure Arab support

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was to ask Arab foreign ministers Sunday to take its side against any U.S. attempt to bypass the organisation in Middle East peace moves.

The PLO called for the Arab League meeting three weeks ago, shortly after U.S. President George Bush announced he was suspending dialogue with the organisation until it condemned a guerrilla dialogue raid on Israel.

PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najab said last week that some Arab states were asking for more time for consultations with Washington.

"The meeting is very important and a test of intentions. We see no justification for postponing it," Najab added.

Salah Khalaf, a leading member of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah group, said in an interview published Sunday that the Palestinians wanted the meeting to "strengthen Arab solidarity with the PLO in the face of U.S. attitudes."

Diplomatic sources say Egypt has been mediating between the PLO and the United States on the conditions for resuming the dialogue.

Qasem arrives in Tunis

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who arrived here Sunday after a private visit to the United States, will lead the Kingdom's delegation to the meeting.

Qasem held talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to the U.S.

PCC meeting postponed

The PLO has postponed indefinitely a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) that was scheduled for July 18 in the Iraqi capital, a Palestinian official said Sunday.

Azzam Ahmad, the PLO's representative to Iraq, said the meeting was called off "to allow for more consultations."

He said no new date has been fixed for the meeting. The 80-seat central council serves as a go-between for the PLO Executive Committee and the policy-making Palestine National Council.

Mubarak takes Assad on reconciliation drive

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, seeking to consolidate renewed friendship with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad, took him for a scenic drive along the Mediterranean coast Sunday.

Mubarak took the wheel of a black Mercedes for the drive, showing Assad tourist villages that have sprung up on the coast near Alexandria. Their route was cleared of other traffic and security men drove ahead and behind.

Mubarak and his guest, seeking reconciliation after a 13-year rift, spent several hours Saturday in talks behind locked doors but there was no indication of the outcome.

So far, officials say, the Palestinian issue, Lebanon and changes in the international scene have been on the agenda.

Syria's official newspapers Sunday hailed Assad's visit as a turning point for Arab solidarity against Israel.

"President Assad's visit to

Egypt is an historical turning point for bilateral cooperation and for promoting Arab solidarity to confront Israeli aggression," the official daily Al Thawra said. "Among the issues to be discussed by Assad and Mubarak will be... the necessity of adopting a unified Arab position regarding all Arab causes, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict," Al Baath, organ of Syria's ruling party, said.

Egyptian newspapers also welcomed Assad's visit.

"Any cooperation between Cairo and Damascus gives strength to both countries and gives the Arab and Islamic nation a large deposit of pride and immunity," an editorial in the mass-circulation Al Akhbar said.

Egyptian officials said the two leaders would meet again Sunday to review the situation in Lebanon, patrolled by 40,000 Syrian troops, as well as Egypt's efforts to revive peace efforts in the Middle East.

Prince Talal engaged

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad Sunday got engaged to Ghaida Hanf Mohammad Salam, the Royal Court announced Sunday.

Prince Talal, the eldest son of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, was born on June 26, 1965. He graduated from the British military academy at Sandhurst in 1988 and secured another degree from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., in 1989. He serves as an officer with the Armed Forces.

Israeli jet goes missing

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said Sunday that an air force plane flown by a lone pilot disappeared during an unauthorised flight Friday.

"The pilot who was on alert in an air force base in the centre of the country took off without authorisation," an army statement said. The army had been conducting a widespread search by land and sea since Friday morning, it said.

Asked for details on radar detection of the flight, an army spokeswoman told Reuters: "No details, no names — just the statement."

Thousands protest in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — A huge crowd of banner-waving demonstrators marched through central Moscow in the rain Sunday to demand a coalition government and an end to 73 years of Communist Party rule in the Soviet Union.

Tens of thousands of people rallied near Red Square at the end of the march, organised by the breakaway Democratic Platform (DP) movement and other radical groups.

"We are here to express our contempt of the (28th) party congress which has just ended," Russian Federation parliamentary deputy Sergei Be-lesovskiy told the crowd.

The DP, marking the first formal split in the Soviet Communist Party since pre-revolutionary days, announced at the congress Thursday that it would form its own party and called on other democratic forces to help.

"Throw the Communist Party on the trash heap of history," read one banner poking above a sea of umbrellas. "From the deceived (Soviet) Russia. Make the party for those over 70," another said.

The demonstrators were in good humour despite the rain.

Gorbachev, Kohl near agreement

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet and West German leaders, bubbling with confidence after three hours of talks, announced Sunday they were near agreement on Germany's future military status, the last hurdle before unification.

President Mikhail Gorbachev and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, both grinning and joking at a surprise joint news conference, made it clear they saw a quick solution to such thorny issues as German membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the new state's troop levels.

"We have tackled some very important issues," Gorbachev said of his opening session with Kohl, who sees this two-day visit as crucial to his plan for German unity by December.

"We've got a few small nuts to crack, but we have very good teeth. We'll crack them," Gorbachev said.

The two declined to elaborate on teasing hints that a major breakthrough was near. Their aides were more explicit.

Asked if he expected an agreement on NATO membership for a united Germany, which West Germany's allies support but Moscow has resolutely opposed, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokes-

man Gennady Gerasimov said: "Yes, I expect one."

"We're moving closer to each other rapidly," a Bonn delegation member said.

Gorbachev and Kohl said they made major progress on a treaty governing relations between the Soviet Union and a united Germany.

Kohl arrived in Moscow late Saturday on a two-day visit, his second trip to the Soviet capital this year. Neither leader revealed what progress had been made on the treaty, which would replace the Moscow treaty, a non-aggression pact ratified by the West German and Soviet parliaments in 1972. The pact has formed the basis of relations.

The treaty would cover security as well as economic, financial and cultural cooperation and would bind both sides to a mutual renunciation of force.

Fighting between Nazi Germany and the Red Army in World War II cost at least 20 million Soviet lives. Many Soviet families still bear the scars of the war.

For decades, the threat of German revanchism was one of the favourite subjects of Soviet propaganda. War movies are still popular on Soviet television.

Lebanese kidnappers in no rush to free hostages

BEIRUT (R) — While the families of kidnap victims spend agonising days and nights by the phone, Lebanon's hostage-takers coldly calculate the best moment to seize maximum publicity for a release.

Since the spate of abductions of Westerners began in 1984, kidnappers and countries involved in releases have usually timed the event carefully to secure the greatest media attention.

Iran's official IRNA news agency began the latest hostage-watch eight days ago with a report from Beirut that a Westerner, probably a European, was expected to go free soon.

After the soccer World Cup final last Sunday, diplomats said, the media stage seemed set.

Then Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, personally involved in previous releases, left for Egypt with President Hafez Al Assad. Diplomats doubt any breakthrough until he returns to Damascus early this week.

Kidnappers have always kept families and envoys in the dark, at their mercy and at the mercy of

hoaxers.

"They are the actors and the captives' families are the audience," said one source.

Even experienced diplomats are at a loss, asking journalists questions instead of answering them.

The release procedure, a nightmare for victims and their families, is all in a day's work for the kidnappers, one pro-Iranian political source said.

"Time apparently does not count for the captors. They hold the initiative. They control things. They don't feel the pressure of time," he said.

"Freedom of the hostages is the least of their concerns. A few more days in the life of the hostage does not count for them."

The latest family to have its hopes raised of a hostage release is that of Irishman Brian Keenan, tipped by several sources as the likeliest candidate for freedom after more than four years.

Irish envoys came to Beirut and Damascus while his family put the champagne on ice and

stayed glued to the phone. So far, neither diplomats or relatives have heard anything but rumours.

Pro-Iranian fundamentalists, often eager to win publicity for their cause, complain that the Western media is obsessed with its own captives but indifferent to the fate of Arab prisoners held by Israel.

In the past four years, U.S. television networks have spent tens of millions of dollars covering the hostage story. Several networks only kept crews in Beirut in case a American was freed.

The latest report brought scores of journalists from all over the world to Damascus, where hostages are normally handed over to their country's diplomats.

Some 64 foreign nationals have been kidnapped in Lebanon in the past six years, of whom 11 were killed or died in captivity and 38 have gained freedom.

The 15 left, most of them believed held by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group, include six Americans and three Britons.



Sisters of Beirut hostage Brian Keenan, Brenda Gillham (foreground) and Elaine Spence wait for news on the impending release of their brother.

British Muslims endorse Rushdie order

LONDON (R) — Hundreds of British Muslims resoundingly endorsed Iran's death order against author Salman Rushdie Saturday, in a move that could further upset uneasy race relations in Britain.

An estimated 500 Muslims attending a conference called "The Future of Muslims" cheered loudly and waved their arms in approval for the death order passed on Rushdie by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in February 1989.

Muslim leader Kalim Siddiqui, one of the most vocal anti-Rushdie campaigners in Britain, said the conference decision was a "beautiful moment" which showed British Muslims were 100

per cent behind the Iranian order.

Khomeini ordered Muslims around the world to kill Rushdie for blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses," forcing the Indian-born author to go into hiding.

But Siddiqui reminded Muslims in Britain of their overriding duty to obey British laws.

Earlier, he told the conference that Muslims in Britain faced a "lava of hatred" from every Briton in the land and proposed a manifesto calling for the creation of a separate parliament to debate issues of concern to British Muslims.

"It pours from the mouths of

cabinet ministers, from judges... from parsons to policemen... indeed, from every nook and cranny of this great country of ours," Siddiqui said.

The burning of Rushdie's book by Muslims in the city of Bradford last year marked the start of protests that spread across the Muslim World and threatened race relations in Britain, which has a population of 1.5 million Muslims.

Members of the extreme right-wing National Front staged a protest outside the conference hall in central London, carrying posters saying "No return to the dark ages" and "If you don't like our laws get out of our country."

Islamists, secularists clash in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists are clashing with secularists over shorts, music and mixing of the sexes in Algeria after the sweeping Islamist victory in June local elections.

A month after taking office, fundamentalist mayors and provincial councils have taken the first steps towards implementing their concept of Islamic law in streets, esplanades and school classrooms.

The measures have provoked a furious and immediate outcry from officials, liberal parties and the state-run media, which remains virulently anti-fundamentalist.

In the Mediterranean resort of Tipaza, west of Algiers, bills posted on the main streets announce a dress code signed by the mayor last week — no shorts above the knees for men, and no shorts at all for women.

The wali (provincial governor), appointed by the interior ministry which remains in the hands of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), on Saturday called the edict unconstitutional and annulled it.

In the eastern city of Constantine, the country's third largest, the provincial council last week banned co-educational classrooms and the sale and distribution of alcohol, a local paper reported.

If confirmed, the co-ed segregation order is almost certain to be fought by higher authorities.

In the western city of Oran, municipal authorities have decided for the first time since 1985 not to hold an annual festival of music, the pulsating blend of African funk and Western pop whose lyrics are often blatantly sexual.

Fundamentalist pressure appears responsible, even though the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) mayor of Oran told Algerian radio last week the festival had never been scheduled.

"They criticise us for banning a rai festival. We did it and will do it," said a defiant Ali Benhadj, radical young FIS preacher at a prayer meeting in Algiers last Friday.

People elected us for an Islamic town government... in rai festivals there is theft, prostitution and permissiveness. Is that what people have given us their votes for?"

Since the FIS swept to power in a majority of town councils in the first free elections on June 12, Algerians are increasingly polarised over the role of Islamic law in a country emerging from 28 years of one-party FLN rule.

Secularists and religious moderates fear the country is headed for a new one-party state.

The FIS say they are only carrying out a popular mandate to implement Sharia. "We will apply Islamic law gradually, according to a concerted plan with elected officials... it will be gradual, but will surely lead to ward applying everything Allah says," Benhadj said.

With the FLN and liberal opposition parties in disarray, paralysed by factional infighting, the FIS now appears the front runner in parliamentary elections widely expected to be called next year by President Chadli Benjedid.

But some analysts believe the fundamentalist programme may backfire as Algerians come to resent being told how to dress and socialise and ask what the FIS can offer to solve more pressing economic problems.

The liberal weekly Algeria Actualite said the FIS ban on rai, popular among alienated urban youths, could be a blessing in disguise.

"Did the FIS, which claims to be the party of the people and the underprivileged, think carefully before cutting itself from a base it had secured? It is the first real blunder by the FIS, and that reassures us," the paper said.

Israelis made homeless by Soviet Jews take to tents

By Steve Weizman
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Hundreds of protesting Israelis, saying an influx of Soviet immigrants has driven them from the roof, have become tent-dwellers.

The latest of 13 encampments set up in recent weeks sprouted Monday night on a hillside below Israel's parliament. Some 38 Jerusalem families moved in among the rocks and olive trees, vowing to stay until their housing problems were solved.

"We will try to combine three elements. One is a protest, secondly to give an immediate solution to people about to be thrown onto the streets. Third, there are elements here of some kind of collective activity," spokesman Tzvi Ben-Dor said.

Liberalised Soviet emigration laws and tighter United States entry restrictions have prompted more than 50,000 Soviet Jews to move to Israel this year.

Attention has focused on Arab fears they could swell the numbers of Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many stay inside the Jewish state, competing with Israelis for scarce jobs and housing.

Ben-Dor says immigration officials are subsidising the Soviet newcomers, paying landlords high rents a full year in advance — terms that individual tenants cannot match.

"We are not against (the immigrants) but... they are going to make the housing problems that existed before more serious and more acute," he told reporters visiting the campsite.

"Families that were renting houses until now got messages that they have to leave the apartment or pay more. Some of the landlords, like my landlord for example, almost doubled the rent," he added.

Tent camps have sprung up in 12 towns.

In the desert town of Beer-sheba, bedouin Arabs helped

Jewish protesters reclaim traditional tent-making skills. In Yahud, near Tel Aviv, protesters built a shantytown a few blocks from the million-dollar villas of the Savoyon district.

In some areas, housing activists say their rents have more than doubled in the past three months.

A Jerusalem student paying \$250 had her rent raised to \$400 a month. "Unable to pay the new rate, she has to quit by July 15."

Ben-Dor says divorced women with children, old people and the unemployed are among the hardest hit.

The housing ministry, responsible for all public housing in Israel, says it is aware of the problems and will act.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the newly appointed "immigration czar," has ordered prefabricated homes abroad to ease the crisis.

"These things take time. You can't enact legislation and draw up plans overnight," a spokeswoman told Reuters.

Shamir smiling after first month

By Howard Goller
Reuter

TEL AVIV — A smile is back on the craggy face of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Against expectations, his new government — the most hardline in Israel's history — has survived five weeks and with barely a public row.

Politicians had predicted a swift fall or at least a very bumpy ride for Shamir, 74, when he formed a coalition with tough-talking challengers to his Likud party leadership, rabbis and what one aide called "right-wing crazies."

Now, says a government official, "the old man is smiling. We feel we have nicely survived the first month, which was supposed to be tough."

Last week the coalition survived its first no-confidence motion in the Knesset (parliament). Shamir moved closer to widening his 62-58 majority while a leadership struggle is brewing in the rival Labour Party.

The secret of Shamir's success has again been his ability to deflect — without necessarily satis-

fying — the demands of rival camps, in this case his rightist partners and the United States.

Shamir has frustrated a U.S. bid to bring Israelis and Palestinians together in Cairo for their first peace talks. His last government — with Labour — fell over the American plan.

To help stave off international pressure, the government invited a United Nations envoy to tour the occupied territories.

To ensure a continued flow of Soviet Jews, it displayed a pragmatic streak by telling Moscow the immigrants would not be directed to the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Washington has eliminated a chief cause of tension with Israel. Bush suspended a low-level dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after it refused to condemn a faction behind a foiled attack against Israel.

Shamir, who has never accepted the PLO as anything other than a "terrorist organisation," was pleased to see the break that Israeli had sought since the dialogue began 18 months ago.

Shamir has temporarily assuaged the thirst for power of right-wing and religious partners by giving them sought-after ministries.

His rivals in Likud — Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, Finance Minister David Levy and Minister Yitzhak Mordechai — now have much to lose by rocking the boat.

Sharon, the prime minister's most outspoken opponent who quit the last government over peace moves, has a grip on the main task of the domestic agenda — finding homes for the tens of thousands of Soviet newcomers.

Likud officials are optimistic that the one religious party hold-out — Agudat Israel — is eager for power and will soon join up, boosting the parliamentary majority to 66-34.

Four months ago Shamir was leader of the first Israeli government to fall in a no-confidence vote, when Labour pulled out of the coalition in exasperation at his obstruction of peace moves.

Now Labour is up for grabs, with former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin challenging party chairman Shimon Peres.

Protests erupt in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (R) — Police fired into the air Sunday to disperse hundreds of demonstrators shouting anti-government slogans at the start of the trial of 42 prominent Somalis who called for political reforms.

Security forces in anti-riot gear cordoned off the area around the court building in Mogadishu as the closed-door trial got underway.

The 42 accused were charged with involvement in publishing and distributing a manifesto two months ago which called for the removal of President Mohammad Siad Barre and the setting up of a caretaker government.

The defendants were due to be tried in three groups — writers of the manifesto, distributors and supporters.

Some could be charged with treason, which carries a possible death sentence.

The leading defendants were former Police Commissioner Mohammad Abshir Muse and former diplomat Mohammad Ahmad Darman.

More than 100 people signed the document, called Mogadishu manifesto number one. It was not clear whether some of them would be tried without being present in court.

But the government said a

number of those originally detained for signing had since been released after saying their signatures were forged.

The manifesto, published by a group calling itself the Council for National Reconciliation and Salvation, appealed for the setting up of a caretaker government to restore law and order.

Somalia, a desperately poor country in the Horn of Africa, is riven by civil war. The manifesto said lawlessness was so bad no Somali could sleep soundly at night.

Most Western donor countries have withdrawn support for the government, citing human rights abuses and corruption.

Siad Barre, in power since a coup in 1969, last year pledged reforms including legalising political opposition parties and holding free elections.

But has so far not set a date for a poll or passed legislation to change the present one-party system.

Ten days ago, Siad Barre's bodyguard opened fire on a crowd at a Mogadishu sports stadium which began booing and throwing stones at the president.

Unofficial reports said dozens of people were killed, but the government said the reports were aimed at tarnishing Somalia's im-

age. It said seven people died and 18 were injured.

Italy said last week it was withdrawing its army and air force training personnel from Somalia because of "serious delays in bringing about democracy."

Italy also said it was planning a review of development and cooperation agreements with its former colony.

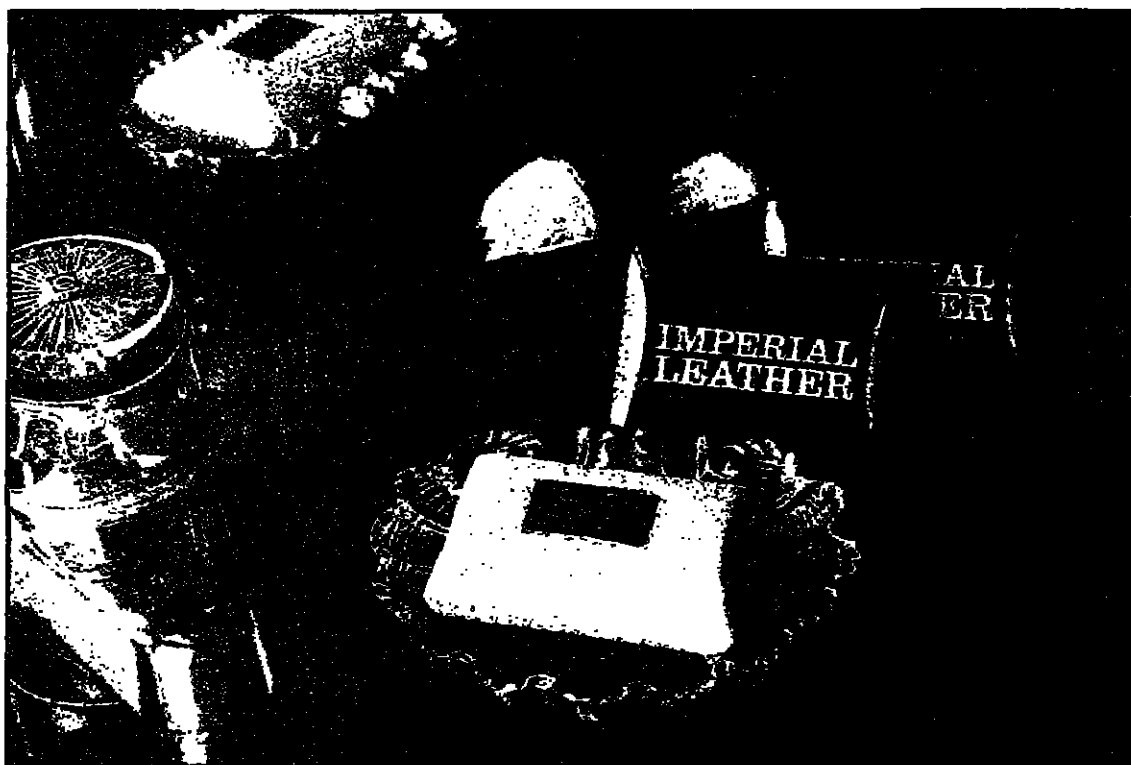
Disidents freed

Later Sunday, the court freed the 45 Somalis.

Mogadishu Radio said the 45 were found not guilty after more than four hours of deliberation by the court, which found there was insufficient evidence against them.

The radio broadcast said hooligans and common criminals took advantage of the street demonstrations to loot and ransack shops and warehouses.

It quoted police sources as saying there were no casualties, but eye-witnesses said some people were killed and injured when police fired into the crowd.



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:40	Programme review
21:40	Local programmes
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:10	Documentary
19:40	News in French
19:45	Weekly Sport magazine
19:50	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:30	Perfect Strangers
21:10	Murder She Wrote
22:00	News in English
22:30	Action in the North Atlantic
PRAYER TIMES	
04:43	Fajr
05:36	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:47	Maghreb
21:20	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifich, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Ammun	20 / 33
Aqaba	26 / 41
Desert	21 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Kayed Halaqa	793522
Dr. Hisham Abu Anqub	893122
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Fouta	675480
Dr. Hisham Kanan	790286
Firdos pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637035
Nairolah pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
Shimadani pharmacy	637660
BRIDJ:	
Dr. Radwan Al Sand	(-)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	983238
ZARQA:	
Dr. Zaid Ja'atim	(-)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	Rescue
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank	891228
Highway Police	775121
Traffic Police	843402
Public Security Department	896390
Hotel Complaints	630321
Price Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	777111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
Company	08-53200
RJ Flight Information	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport... 08-53200	
AMMAN:	
Hassan Medical Centre	81381/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	64281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	64281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Melha, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsat	6617114
Shamsat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muassat Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6661646
Al-Badr, J. Amman	7771013
Al-Badr, J. Amman	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(02)75535
Zarqa National Hospital	(02)75535
Im Sina Hospital	(02)75535
BRIDJ:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)75535
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)72275
Rn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:00	Damascus (RJ)
18:15	Riyadh (RJ)
18:30	Dhahran (RJ)
18:35	Cairo (RJ)
18:40	Kuwait (RJ)
18:45	Jeddah (RJ)
18:50	Baghdad (RJ)
19:00	Cairo (RJ)
19:10	Jeddah (RJ)
19:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
19:20	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:40	Al Qasem (SV)
09:45	Beirut (ME)
11:00	Baghdad (IA)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
12:00	Cairo (RJ)
12:15	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30	New York, Montreal (RJ)
12:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:55	Moscow (RJ)
13:00	Kuwait (RJ)
13:05	Paris (AF)
13:10	Kuwait (KU)
13:15	Istanbul (TK)
13:20	Beirut (ME)
13:25	Baghdad (AF)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	
Apple	700 / 600
Apricots	500 / 400
Bananas	500 / 450
Bonons (Mediterranean)	450 / 400
Beans	250 / 200
Cabbage	130 / 90
Carrot	200 / 150
Cauliflower	220 / 180
Corn	120 / 80
Cucumbers (large)	100 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	180 / 120
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplant	100 / 60
Garlic	1100 / 900
Grapes	300 / 220
Lemon	300 / 450
Melon	80 / 40
Minnow (large)	130 / 80
Minnow (small)	130 / 80
Onion (dry)	200 / 150
Orange	300 / 320
Peas	500 / 400
Pepper (hot)	180 / 140
Pepper (sweet)	160 / 120
Potato	220 / 180
Sweet melon	400 / 300
Tomatoes	180 / 120
Watermelon	110 / 50

Jordan, Syria to discuss cooperation in construction

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee on housing, public works and reconstruction opens a four-day meeting in Amman Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation in housing and construction, ahead of a meeting in Damascus later this month by the Jordanian-Syrian higher joint committee which will be chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The joint committee, which was set up by the higher committee, will discuss exchanges of information and expertise, training programmes, raising the standard of efficiency in construction work, holding workshops for training as well as dealing with housing issues, unorganised building operations, the employment of locally produced building materials and emigration of citizens from the rural to urban regions in the two countries, according to an official from the Housing Corporation where the meetings are to take place.

He said that the two sides will also examine legislations concerning housing and construction projects in the two countries,

methods adopted in granting tenders to contractors and the work of engineering consultancy firms.

"Joint housing ventures, manpower potentials that can be employed in the construction business in Jordan and Syria and the removal of obstacles impeding joint work will also be on the agenda," he said.

Housing Corporation Director Youssef Hiyasat will lead Jordan's delegation to the meeting. The Syrian team will be taken on tours of Jordanian housing schemes carried out by the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Corporation as well as road projects.

Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in agriculture was meanwhile reviewed at a meeting held here Sunday by Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat and Syria's Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh.

The ambassador conveyed to Arabiyat an invitation by Syrian Agriculture Minister Mohammad Ghabash to visit Syria.

Fast mail delivery expected to expand

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fast mail delivery system introduced by the post office in Jordan in 1986 now includes Zarqa in addition to Amman and the service is expected to expand northward to reach Irbid as a next step, according to Dr. Abdullah Al Jazi director general of the Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation.

"The central post office in Zarqa Sunday started fast mail delivery operations benefitting companies, organisations and individuals," said Al Jazi.

"When first introduced some five years ago, this kind of service was conducted through the central post office in Amman, but it was later expanded to other parts of the city and Jordan is now connected with 27 Arab and foreign countries," Al Jazi added.

He said that mail senders can have letters and other post materials reach their destinations very fast, much faster than the normal postal services. "The cost of sending mail by this service, he

said is far below the rates offered by the private companies which carry out similar services," Jazi added.

Last year, he said, the fast mail delivery system in Jordan handled more than 60,000 letters and postal dispatches which is a good indicator of the prospect of the system.

The corporation, Dr. Jazi pointed out, is determined to expand still further the fast mail delivery network to include four additional countries before the end of 1990.

Jazi named the present countries linked to Jordan through the fast mail delivery system as follows: Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, West Germany, Greece, Holland, Japan, Cyprus, Austria, Switzerland, Turkey, Portugal, China, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Taiwan.

King congratulates France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Bastille Day — the anniversary of the French Revolution.

In his cable, King Hussein voiced appreciation to "the pioneering role played by France in promoting the message of freedom, equality and brotherhood, and noted its efforts in unifying Europe, thus turning it into a force of stability, progress and cooperation in the world over."

The King also noted "the unique relations between Jordan and France" and voiced hope for increased cooperation to achieve durable and just peace in the Middle East region. The King wished the French president continued good health and happiness and the French people further progress and prosperity.

Conference to review poultry, egg industry in the Arab World

By Sahar Qara'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prospects for developing the poultry industry as part of the Arab World's ongoing efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in foods, are the focus of a conference which opens in Amman today, Monday 16 July.

Organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) in cooperation with several other institutions, the four-day conference, which will also include an exhibition, comes against a background of "the growing importance of poultry and egg production sector which links agriculture, industry and the Arab people's food needs," said Jack Khayyat, head of the regional office of the AFFI. "Poultry and egg production is one of the safety valves which contribute to achieving self-sufficiency in meat in the Arab World," Khayyat told a press conference Sunday.

The seminar will seek to evaluate the following, Khayyat said: — The poultry and egg industry in the Arab World; — The Arab World's needs until the year 2005; — Present and future production capacities; — Quality control standards; — The inter-Arab cooperation for self-sufficiency and the means to reach this end, and evaluation of the technological procedures used; — Qualitative and quantitative needs of poultry feed.

Khayyat stressed on the necessity of inter-Arab cooperation in poultry production taking into consideration that there is a surplus in poultry and egg production in some Arab countries which necessitates boosting trade, technical staff and experience exchange between the Arab countries which import 35% of poultry and 12% of eggs from the world market.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Supply, and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) are cooperating with the AFFI to organise the conference, which is expected to be attended by 250 delegates.

The participants include delegations representing most Arab countries, a large number of Arab organisations, staff, unions and universities, in addition to a group of scientists and experts from all over the world.

Khayyat also announced that the organising committee of the conference will prepare a specialised exhibition of poultry and egg production for the Arab and international producers of poultry equipment, breeders, broilers and egg producers, veterinary medicines supplies to be opened during the conference.

The four-day-long conference will be opened under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Hussein. In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, the conference will hold seven specialised working sessions classified into five categories representing studies prepared by the preparatory committee of the conference, Arab govern-

ment sector, Arab organisations, companies and syndicates, international organisations and world authorities and Arab international experts.

Mohamed Zeitoun, a member of the preparatory committee and representative of the Ministry of Supply, pointed out that "the Jordanian government welcomed holding the conference in Amman in the light of the great importance of the poultry and egg sector in the country and because it will provide Jordan with the opportunity to acquaint Arab countries with its developed poultry industry and to announce its readiness to supply Arab countries with its products at competitive prices so as to lessen or stop importing these products from Western countries."

Explaining the reasons for chicken shortage phenomenon which prevailed in the Kingdom in the past, Khayyat said this phenomenon would be attributed to many factors such as: "the shortage in red meat which raised the demand on chicken, devaluation of the dinar which prompted feed importers to decrease their imports, the delay in fixing new prices to suit the production input by the Ministry of Supply."

However, Khayyat confirmed that "the situation is different now and there is an oversupply in chicken products which enables Jordan to be the main exporter to the Arab World." In other words "Jordan could be the Holland of the Arab World" according to Khayyat.

Jordan to host IOJ meeting

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday welcomed a decision by the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) to hold a meeting for its executive committee in Amman in October this year, and said this would offer an opportunity to journalists from around the world to conduct a closer study of Jordan and its development in various fields.

Journalists taking part in the coming meeting will also have the chance to review the Arab issues and the sufferings of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories at the hands of Israel's inhuman practices, said the Prime Minister at a meeting with IOJ Secretary-General Mazen Al Hussein and his accompanying delegation in the presence of Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin.

Badran listened to Hussein's briefing on the organisation's activities and programmes in the

information and media fields. He said that 260,000 journalists from around the world are members of the Prague-based organisation.

Hussein also briefed the Prime Minister on the ongoing preparations for the executive committee meeting in Amman scheduled between Oct. 13-16.

Hussein also hailed the democratisation process in Jordan which, he said, has opened the way for free expression in the press; he voiced the IOJ's gratefulness to the government for allowing it to hold meetings in Amman.

Hussein and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Hashem Khreisat announced the date and venue of the executive committee meeting at a press conference earlier in the day.

Khreisat said it is necessary for the coming meeting to voice world journalists' strong condemnation of the inhuman and brutal practices of the Israeli author-

ities against the Arab people of Palestine. "The recommendations and resolutions of the October meeting are expected to call for backing the Palestinian people's struggle and intifada against the occupation authorities and for supporting their endeavours to set up an independent state in Palestine under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," Khreisat said.

Khreisat said that the committee was also expected to denounce the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine as designed to threaten the existence of the Arab Nation.

According to Hussein who addressed the press conference, the IOJ represents 260,000 journalists from 120 countries grouped in 110 associations including Jordan. "We did not select Jordan as a venue for the October meeting at random, but rather in support of this country's democratisation process and because of the proximity of Amman to the Palestinian land," Hussein pointed out.

He said that 150 journalists

taking part in the meeting will have a good chance here to study the situation in the occupied Arab lands and to investigate Israel's inhuman practices in view of Jordan's closeness to the Palestinian land.

"By holding the committee meeting in Amman, the IOJ will be expressing its total support for Jordan's democratic process and the PLO which is striving to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil," Hussein said.

"The IOJ is committed to defend the cause of journalists anywhere in the world regardless of their political and ideological affiliations," he said.

"Among people killed as a result of persecution in their own countries in 1989 there were 100 journalists including those of the occupied Arab territories who died under torture at the hands of the Israeli authorities," Hussein pointed out.

The IOJ, he said, has submitted reports about all these cases to the U.N. Human Rights Commission so that the United Nations

can ensure safety and protection to media people and the journalists from all countries of the world.

Hussein said that the IOJ will extend an invitation to the Palestinian journalists to attend the Amman meeting and present a detailed report on the ordeal of the Palestinian journalists at the hands of the Israeli authorities.

Following the assassination of seven Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories last April, the organisation dispatched a team to the occupied lands to investigate the incident and the team's report will be read out to the October meeting, he said.

Apart from that the coming meeting will examine a draft for a new IOJ constitution and all the session will be open to journalists from Jordan and other parts of the world.

Hussein said several working papers to be discussed cover the situation in the occupied Arab territories, journalists' cases in Latin America, South East Asia and Africa and other journalistic issues.

Famous Syrian poet dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Renowned Syrian poet Omar Abu Rishah died Sunday at the age of 80. Abu Rishah was born in Manbeth, in Aleppo Governorate, in 1910 to a rich Syrian family.

He studied at the American University of Beirut and was later sent by his father to London to learn the art of textiles and weaving in order to run his father's business. Upon return he started writing poetry.

Abu Rishah held several government posts including director of the National Syrian Library in Aleppo, plenipotentiary ambassador in Brazil and ambassador in New Delhi.

The late poet reflected the events his country and the Arab



Omar Abu Rishah

World had passed through in his poems. His poems were in fact a record for the Arab uprisings and catastrophes.

He wrote several books, including 'Thi Qar' play and 'Al Toufan' (The Flood).

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King thanks Saudi monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in reply to his cable of condolences over the death of some Jordanian pilgrims in the Mueiscem tunnel incident, which took place during the first day of Eid Al Adha. King Hussein said the Saudi efforts aimed at providing comfort and security to all pilgrims to Mecca will remain the object of the pride in the whole Muslim World. He noted that the incident was caused by fate and divine decree, which "we had no power over."

King receives Pakistani Islamic judge

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received the visiting Pakistani Chief Islamic Justice Jamal Mohammad Khan. The audience was attended by Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mhailan. Also Sunday, Justice Minister Youssef Mubaiden received Sheikh Khan and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation in the fields of Islamic jurisprudence and legal legislations. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Mhailan and senior ministry officials.

Jordan, Egypt sign trade protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran and Director of the External Trade at the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade Fakhruddin Abu Al Izz Sunday signed a commercial and economic cooperation protocol. The protocol, which forms a supplement to commercial and economic agreement in force in the two countries calls for enhancing commercial and economic relations and broadening scopes of economic and trade activities to reach the \$250 million target of commercial exchange volume. This volume will be achieved jointly in the years 1990 and 1991 through the package deal.

ACC ministers to discuss trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of trade, industry and supply in the four-member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will meet here Wednesday to study proposals for inter-ACC trade, including a collective package deal and defining a number of commodities exempted from customs duties. The ministers will also discuss prospects of setting up commercial weeks in the four ACC countries. The ACC central bank governors will also meet Monday to discuss a working paper on setting up an inter-ACC bank, to help achieve economic integration and two other working papers on arrangements for settlement of payments and promoting commercial exchange.

Jordan, Britain discuss agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Sami Sunnaa Sunday discussed with the British ambassador to Jordan scopes of cooperation in the agricultural field. Sunnaa made suggestions for enhancing Jordanian British cooperation in the agricultural field, including the production of apple saplings and sending a number of ministry officials to pursue their higher education in the various agricultural fields in Britain.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Primoni at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Jordan — Mysteries and Shadows" by Omani student Mohammad Bin Mahdi Bin Jawad at Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Nabatean Bowl Making" by Jim Mason and Dr. Khairya 'Amar at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Savage et Beau" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

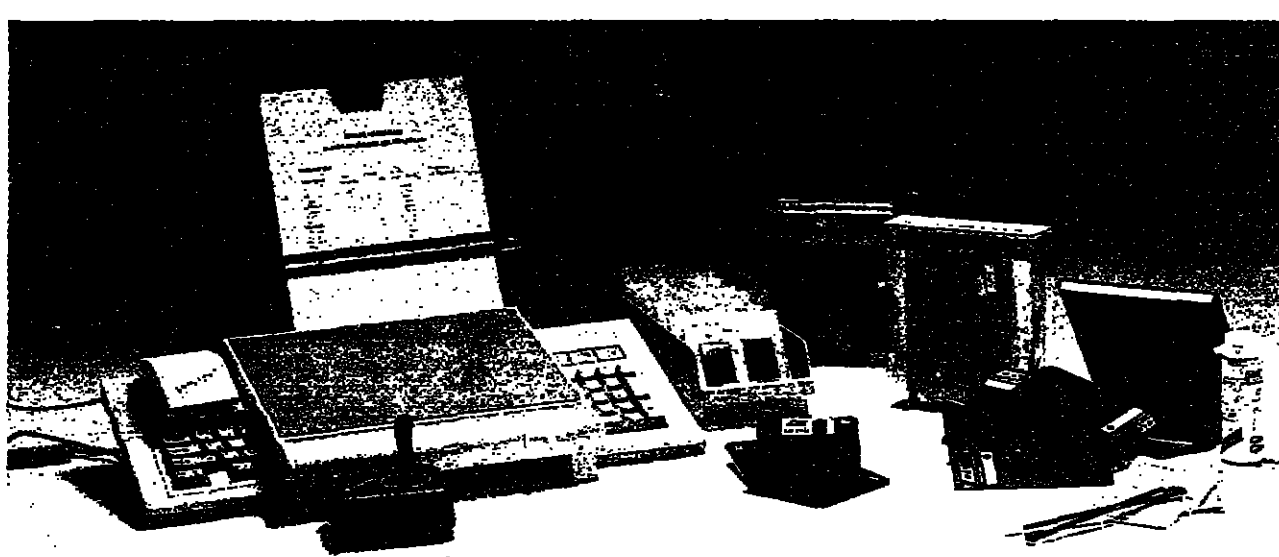
JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Al Yarmouk Group for Arabic Music (7:30-9:00 p.m.) and the Azerbaijan State Ballet (9:30-11:00 p.m.) at the South Theatre.
- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yugoslav folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Poets and poetry at Aramis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
- ★ Concert by Gary Burton Jazz Quintet at Aramis Steps (9:30 - 11:00 p.m.)

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Readying for new era

A consensus is emerging in the international community, notably in the West, which says that not only the Soviet Union has lost its status as a superpower in the wake of the rapid changes that occurred within it and its camp but that also the U.S. is projected to lose that prestigious rank as well in the course of this decade. Experts from all walks of life are discerning a trend in which the U.S. is seen losing ground in most important spheres of human behaviour and achievement, except perhaps in military matters. And as military considerations on a global scale are diminishing in importance, the U.S. is up against tremendous competition from other countries and regions of the world. One look at the U.S. economy with its faltering currency and heavy indebtedness would reveal that the U.S. is in deep trouble as far as the future is concerned. After enjoying decades of prosperity and status of being the biggest creditor nation in the world, the U.S. is now the biggest debtor nation and suffering from chronic unbalanced budgets on a scale that would scare any nation of the world. Not only that, but the U.S. technological edge has eroded so much that it can hardly compete with smaller countries in the auto industry and computer technology. Very soon united Europe, and Japan, can produce many products including aviation products which till now the U.S. has monopolised to its total advantage. Accordingly the centres of power could soon be expected to shift from Washington to other capitals just as they have shifted from Moscow lately. In this sense, history is simply repeating itself.

In this rapidly changing world, where major players are continuing to move upwards or downwards as well as sideways, we in the Arab World have a duty to pose and think hard of where our future lies. It is not enough for a handful of our intellectuals to write newspaper articles, and for our politicians to be too absorbed in the reality of today's situation. There is a real need to do more, now and urgently. Think tanks have to be established and, where they exist, activated. Everybody with a contribution to make has to be given the chance to get involved in understanding and analysing our past, present and future aspirations. More importantly, Arab politics and institutions have to mature and expand sufficiently to first adapt to the changing realities and then to exert the maximum influence on, and have the greatest input into, the parameters that are shaping our world's new order.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

It is premature to know the aims of Moscow's moves and diplomatic contacts with the Arab League as has just been announced, although it is understood that the topic is the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said that whatever Moscow's intentions are the Arabs still hope that the Soviet Union will take steps to abort Israel's drive to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land in Palestine. Needless to say that the migration of Jews to Palestine can only encourage the Israelis to remain in the occupied Arab lands, pursuing their inhuman practices against the Palestinian people, it added. Had the emigration process of Jews from the Soviet Union been linked to a permanent solution to the Palestine issue, Israel would have found itself face to face with the only course, which is peace with its neighbours, succumbing to the world community's will and responding to calls for recognising the Palestinian people's rights, said the paper. The Arabs are not asking Moscow to place Arab nation's interests above those of the Soviet Union, but rather a balanced policy regarding the situation in our region, the paper added. It said that the Arabs want to make it clear to Moscow that the immigration is bound to bring into Palestine manpower enabling Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab land adhering to its intransigence with regard to peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the government to issue defined instructions about the new 10 per cent added tax collected for the benefit of civil defence operations. Nazih says that the mere issuing of the order to insurance companies to collect the extra tax is bound to cause some complications and disputes between the insured and the insurance companies, since the latter would want to exact the whole tax from the insured without shouldering their own share. Needless to say that such procedure would adversely affect the interests of the insured who are paying all forms of taxes and fees to the government, sacrificing a large part of their income at a time when the country is suffering from soaring prices and a high cost of living, the writer notes. He says that the insurance companies themselves are not happy about the new tax and have submitted a memorandum to the government, complaining that the tax would mean imposing extra financial burden on them, and negatively affecting their own interests. The writer calls on the concerned authorities, especially the ministries of industry, trade and finance, to re-examine the whole situation and come up with a formula that would not put the whole burden on the individual citizens nor complicate matters for the insurance companies and the government offices.

Sawt Al Shaab daily expressed the Arab countries delight over the reconciliation between Egypt and Syria, seen in a visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The paper said that the talks in Alexandria are bound to cover the peace process in the Middle East which is the concern of all Arabs, and Syrian-Iraqi relations which the Arabs believe should be strengthened before the coming Arab summit in Cairo. The Arab masses are pained to see Syria and Iraq at loggerheads at a time when the Zionist enemy is gaining ground, and making gains at the expense of Arab divisions benefiting from world developments and political changes, said the paper. The changes and developments which prompted the presidents of Egypt and Syria to meet and examine the situation in the Middle East, said the paper, should be cause enough for a similar summit between Syria and Iraq specially as Iraq is now mending fences with Iran — Syria's ally — and approaching the path of peace with greater confidence.

Weekly political pulse

The cracks in the communist dam are there, but there must be something the West can do

THE abrupt resignation of Boris Yeltsin, the elected leader of the Russian Republic, from the Soviet Communist Party was not only a bombshell that stunned the entire world, but also a harbinger of accelerated political developments in the Soviet Union. There is no doubt now that the forces of liberalism that were unleashed by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are taking the country swiftly towards pluralism and not just political and economic reforms of the communist order in the Soviet Union. What has occurred in the rest of the Warsaw Pact countries is finally dawning on the Soviet Union as well and

there is no turning back. The visibly shaken Gorbachev at the announcement by Yeltsin of his resignation from the communist order tells it all. The cracks in the communist dam have occurred and the blood of swift political and economic changes across the political and economic landscapes of the Soviet Union has obviously gotten out of control. The big question now is whether Gorbachev who made all these changes possible in the first place can still ride the tiger that he ushered into the Soviet system. Unfortunately the West has forsaken the Soviet leader by refusing to offer a helping hand to the

ailing Soviet economy which ensued from the reformation and the adjustments that Gorbachev introduced to his country. It seems that the West sees Gorbachev as a transitory leader who served his role well as a catalyst and now he is dispensable. Yet the communist order in the Soviet Union is almost a century old and it cannot be dismissed as yet as a finished order. The Soviet Union is thus projected to experience prolonged chaos and disorder before the dust settles down. This internal strife in the Soviet Union does not augur well to international stability. There must be something that the international community

can do for the Soviet Union and not remain as a spectator to the unfolding of events. Hopefully this could change before it is too late and the rich industrial countries should be the first to shoulder their responsibilities towards Moscow.

It is comforting to discern that united Germany is rallying behind the Soviet Union in its dire difficulties and hardships. Chancellor Kohl made a desperate effort to have the seven Western industrial nations extend a genuine helping hand to the Soviet Union when they held their summit in Houston last week. But such efforts, joined also by France and

Canada, fell on deaf ears and at the end of the G-7 deliberations the issue of helping the Soviet Union was left without a collective verdict. Still Bonn is determined to go ahead with its well thought out policy to assist the Soviet Union. Perhaps Bonn is thinking of establishing bridges with Moscow and cultivate early relations with it to expedite the unification of Germany and the ultimate withdrawal of Soviet troops from "East Germany." From an economic point of view, the Soviet Union offers a huge market for Germany's industries and high-tech facilities that is waiting to be tapped in the wake of Gor-

bachev's reforms. Whatever the reasons and motives of Bonn in developing a head start on the Western relations with Moscow, Bonn is obviously casting a vote of confidence in the Soviet Leader's abilities to withstand all the pressures being applied on him from the far right and far left in his country. Clearly Germany is thinking of geo-political considerations in coming to rescue of troubled Moscow. Being close neighbours, Germany and the Soviet Union are destined to wage new and lasting relationships for their own mutual interests and Chancellor Kohl is showing farsightedness and wisdom.

Cuba debates reform, but how far can it go?

By Pascal Fletcher
Reuters

HAVANA — A debate on Cuba's political and economic future launched by its Communist leadership is raising hopes of reform on the Caribbean island. But the question on everybody's mind is: how far can it go? The ruling Communist Party led by 63-year-old President Fidel Castro has thrown open for public discussion flaws and weaknesses in Cuba's one-party system and socialist economy.

But the leadership is stopping well short of following former Communist allies in Eastern Europe down the path towards Western capitalism or multi-party politics.

"We are going to perfect our socialism," Juan Escalona, head of the country's national assembly and a Senior figure in the Communist Party hierarchy, told Reuters. He portrayed the national debate, officially described as a form of democratic consultation, as a fight for survival.

"We are putting at stake the existence itself of the revolution," Escalona said, referring to the 30 years of socialism introduced following the 1959 revolution.

Cuba, stranded by the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and threatened with possible disruption of its trade and aid lifeline with the Soviet Union, faces mounting pressure to change.

The debate to identify national problems and propose solutions for a party congress in early 1991 has begun in provincial party committees and will extend to grass-roots level. A public discussion document

first released in March pledges to root out evils in the country's socialism, such as inefficiency, overmanning, bureaucracy and dogmatism. It calls on Cubans to say openly what they think.

Billboards reading "what can you contribute? Your opinion," have gone up in Havana as part of a campaign to encourage discussion and overcome scepticism about the debate.

While calling for frankness from the public, the party leadership has been careful to set the political limits of the debate within the existing Communist system.

Justifying this, senior officials like Escalona say a long-standing threat of invasion by the United States, increased by the U.S. invasion of Panama last December, leaves no room for any internal challenge to the existing political framework.

"At this moment in history, living with the permanent threat from our northern neighbours, do you really think we can open the door to this kind of discrepancy?" Escalona asked.

The government's tough line against political opponents in recent months appears to reinforce these limits.

At a court hearing last month, Cuba's state prosecutor sought prison terms of 10 to 12 years for a group of seven dissidents accused of conspiracy and rebellion.

The seven, members of the Democratic Integration Movement which proposed changing the country's constitution to introduce multi-party politics and a market economy, await final sentencing.

At least eight other dissidents arrested in March are awaiting trial accused of counterrevolution or trying to change the socialist system.

Petra Bank employees

(Continued from page 1)

when the year is finished? And how are we supposed to compete against tens of thousands of unemployed seeking jobs when we have been awarded compensation to live on and they don't?" asked an employee with nine children.

One branch manager said that she was not worried about finding herself another similar job, but worried about the "lower-ranking employees finding employment." According to Aghabi, almost all the employees are in debt with school bills to pay and no way to pay back after being laid off, adding that there was a large number of women who are the sole supporters of their families.

Abu Rami, who receives a JD 200 salary, said he has five children and owes JD 14,000.

Abu Fathi, the guard at the Petra Bank main office, said he has eleven months to feed, and his colleagues said that he has been quiet since the ESC decision last week, "worried about what will

happen to his children."

Besides being uncertain about where their future lies after the liquidation of the bank, many were very emotional about having to leave the bank itself. The main office was stagnant on Sunday, and the employees appeared to be in an overwhelming state of depression as they prepared the clients' cards to be transferred to the Housing Bank.

"I can't believe we have to pay the price of the wrongdoings of others. We were the ones who made the bank with our efforts for ten years and now they want to throw us out on the street, while the others who are responsible for the deterioration of the bank are on the loose," Aghabi said as tears rolled down her face. "If the government has problems with the name, change it. Let it be part of the Housing Bank, but let us stay here in our jobs," she added.

"Our small children, eight and nine years old, wanted to grow up and work at Petra Bank," Abu Rami said. "Look what happened to it now."

Substitutes to defence law

(Continued from page 1)

gathering of evidence are continuing, they said.

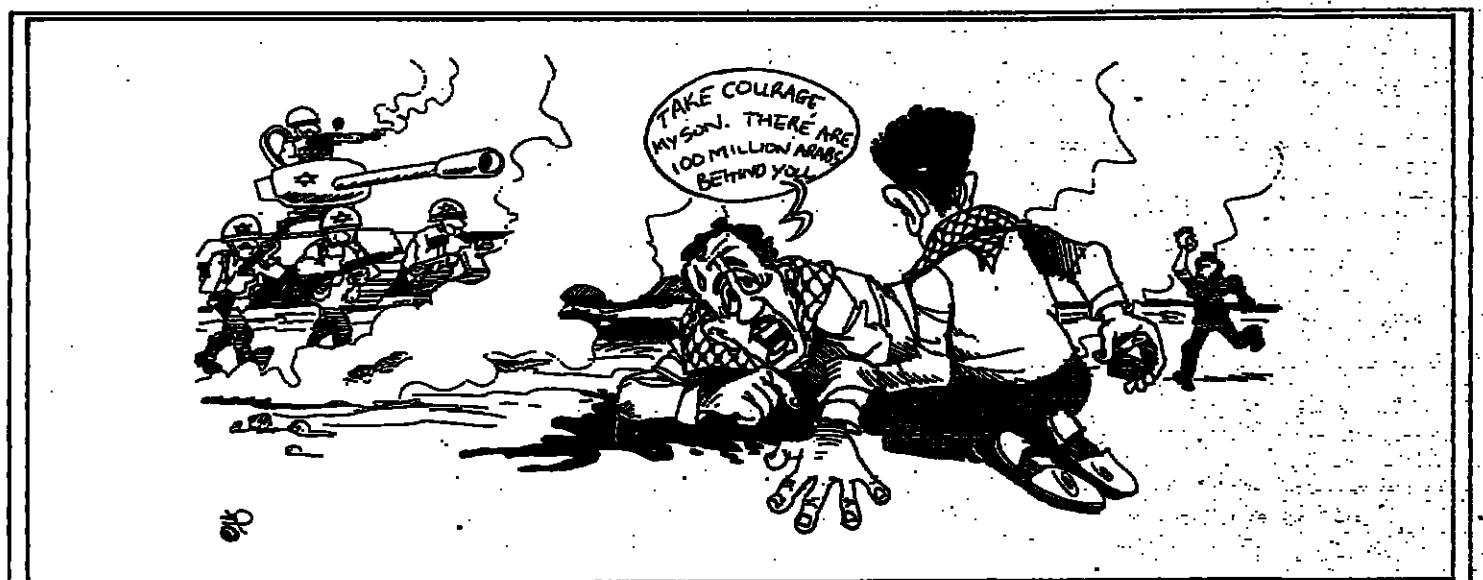
Reports that some cases related to the violent anti-Israeli protests which hit Jordan in May this year were sent to martial law courts have been dismissed as totally groundless by senior officials. Fifteen people detained during and after the violence have been referred to respective civil courts for trial, according to a senior official at the Public Security Department (PSD). The sentence most of them face, according to legal sources, is three to six months in prison and a maximum fine of JD 50.

The prosecutor-general's office is braced for a flood of cases to be transferred to it by the martial law authorities. "Most of these cases were frozen along with the government move to freeze martial law provisions early this year," said an official. "Now, the authorities are

studying them with a view to forwarding them to the civil court."

While a majority of the public as well as civil and criminal lawyers welcome the move to abolish martial law provisions, there are some who voice scepticism that prolonged cases could be a major outcome of the new legislation. "In martial law courts, a case involving a violation of Ministry of Supply law used to take no more than two or three hearings," commented Awad Hussein, an employee at a bank. "With the new law, the process of trying such cases by a civil court can really be drawn out."

On the other hand, argued Abdullah Abdul Fatah, a transport company staff member, "it means that the full rights of every citizen would be protected all the way. He or she can appeal to higher courts against verdicts and be assured of legal counsel and protection."



Israelis don't want to look in mirror

By Jonathan Karp
Reuters

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian uprising that has raged on Israel's doorstep for 31 months looks less violent on Israeli television than on foreign screens.

"We broadcast reports we can sleep with. We cover events in our backyard, that take place on roads we travel on. This necessitates a different approach," Israel Television (ITV) Reporter Mordechai Kirshenbaum said.

"There is no such thing as a happy intifada (uprising)," Kirshenbaum said, reflecting the feeling of many local journalists that Israelis do not want to hear bad news from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While all journalists in Israel are subjected to the same military censorship, reporters at state-run ITV also face government interference, public lack of interest and self-censorship.

Kirshenbaum said Israel television did not place the same premium on violence as foreign networks, which supply video cameras to Palestinians in the occupied territories in areas closed to the press.

However, at a recent conference entitled "Media, Pluralism And a Divided Society," Kirshenbaum admitted he was jealous at times of foreign press coverage.

He recalled a crew from the American television network CBS spent three days with a militant underground Palestinian group in the West Bank city of Nablus.

"It was one of the most impressive stories during the intifada," he said, "but as an Israeli I am not able to spend the night with this gang and watch their marches with knives and axes while the soldier patrolling the streets there is my son."

Kirshenbaum said those feeling could not justify ignoring the uprising and defended

Israel television's record, noting it had bought and screened the CBS story.

Government pressure has more impact on television, state-run Israel radio and armed forces radio than on independent newspapers.

ITV's exclusive reports, such as troop actions and interviews with captured Palestinian guerrillas, have appeared to carry a government bent.

Some conference participants accused the Israeli press of shunning the violence in which Israelis have killed at least 680 Palestinians. Some 46 Jews and more than 200 suspected Arab collaborators have also died.

But Yirmiyahu Yovel, a philosophy professor and chairman of the Spinoza Institute which sponsored the three-day conference, said both the local and foreign portrayal of the revolt against 23 years of Israeli military rule was distorted.

"The foreign press concen-

trates too much on violence because that's what sells, while we see less violence than there is," Yovel told Reuters.

Instead of political interference, he blamed "social repression" by a public that cannot reconcile its self-image as a democratic country with the realities of martial law.

Israelis don't want to see themselves in this crooked mirror, but it is partially true. So the public transmits a message to the media — leave us alone."

"Maybe the media have responded to this more than government pressure," he said.

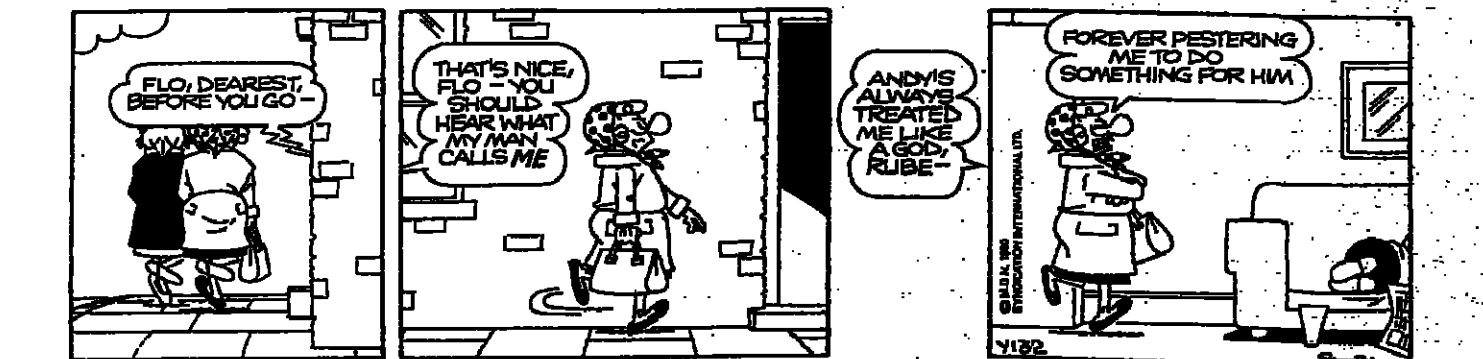
Journalist Ronit Vardi, who broke censorship in 1984 to reveal that two Arab bus hijackers had been killed by Israeli security forces after their capture, feared the same story today would pass unnoticed.

"As much as people wanted to know then, they do not want to know now," she said.

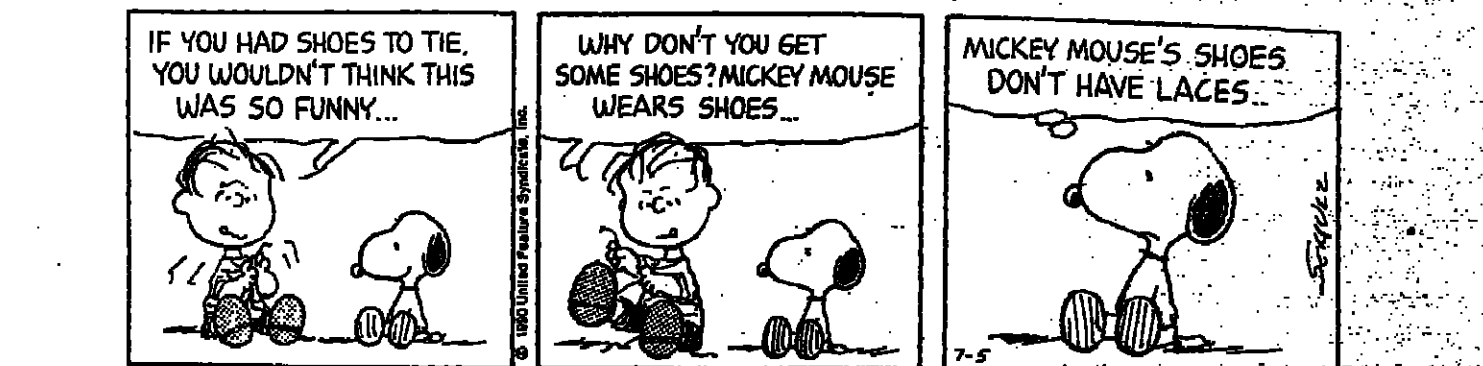
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Generous to Earth but also profitable

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The theme of this summer's gift-giving season in Japan is not glamour or luxury but ecology.

"Gifts generous to the earth," says a sign in a forest of shelves in the Takashimaya department store in Tokyo.

July is when the Japanese shop for gifts for parents, teachers, the boss and clients, and this year it is clear that concern for the environment will show in many presents, large and small.

Takashimaya, Japan's oldest department store, displayed ecologically sound items ranging from 100-per cent-pulp kitchen sponges at 100 yen (66 cents) to recycled-paper stationery sets at 3,000 yen (\$20).

Some of the items have eco-mark stickers, showing the products were judged pollution-free by the governmental Japan Environment Association.

The Mitsukoshi Ltd. chain of department stores trumpets the

theme of "the beautiful earth" and features eco-mark goods in its midsummer gift campaign, which it hopes will yield sales of 14 billion yen (\$93 million).

Brochures at Mitsukoshi's Ginza branch suggest consumers buy more eco-mark goods.

"We are not expecting any immediate feedback from our campaign, but we should continue to introduce such products," says Kiyoshi Hasegawa, Mitsukoshi spokesman. "What we stores can do is to provide consumers opportunities to think about the environment."

Japan also has seen the recent introduction of a less-polluting beer can — no throw-away pull tab — and a mutual fund based on environmental concerns.

Nomura Securities Co., Japan's biggest stockbroking company, recently introduced its earth environment fund, with stocks of companies related to environmental products.

Environmentalists say companies are using ecology themes

to improve their images, but welcomed the moves as helping to raise public awareness.

"Consumers should realise they can somehow live without harming the environment," says Kyoko Kato, a spokeswoman for the Japan Environment Association. "The current situation should be the other way around. Consumers should be the one taking the initiative."

Since the association started issuing the eco-mark last year, it has approved 513 items in 22 categories as ecologically sound. But it has no scientific criteria to measure a product's impact on the environment.

Yoko Tomiyama, acting director of the Japan Consumer Union, said she felt a better service would be to identify products that are harmful to the environment.

"Unless the safety of eco-marked products is guaranteed, it's just nonsense to introduce easy alternatives," Tomiyama said. "But many people just don't care."

Shoppers weren't paying much attention to the 100-per cent-pulp kitchen sponges or plastic trash bags said to release no toxic gases when burned. But retailers said that items promoted on pro-earth themes, such as globes and telescopes, were selling well.

If consumers were sending a mixed signal, many Japanese companies have come to feel obliged to show a positive response to environmental concerns.

Also, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has long encouraged development of technology for controlling pollution and maximising energy efficiency.

"It's no longer socially acceptable if we care about nothing but productivity and sales," said Kenji Yokomizo, spokesman for Suntory, Japan's major brewer.

Suntory recently opened a restaurant called "The Earth" in Tokyo, featuring a new beer, also called The Earth, in a can with the eco-marked stay-on tab — to

prevent beer drinkers from spreading can tabs all over the place — the first of its kind here.

The restaurant features live music and food from Brazil, a country suffering from destruction of tropical forests, and has been so popular that people wait hours to enter the pink-coloured dome designed to look like a hemisphere of the earth.

Suntory says manufacturing cans with stay-on tabs required extra spending for new equipment.

Kato of Japan Environment Association said it has suggested three more eco-mark categories, including recyclable bottles and cans, but no one has applied.

To register for the eco-mark, manufacturers have to pay the association a fee ranging from 40,000 yen (\$254) to 100,000 yen (\$662) based on the price of each product.

"Companies should be proud to have eco-marks on their products, and I hope more companies will apply," she said.

The other side of the French coin

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

PARIS — Not far from Satan's Alley and a dead-end street called God, 48 families live in a public square, victims of a war on squatters waged by a city of plenty with little room for its poor.

Since March 15, when a winter moratorium on evictions ended, riot police have cleared dozens of homes in pre-dawn raids.

The evictions brought a spate of denunciations, demonstrations and charges that the city of Paris, where housing prices are soaring, is trying to push the poor out of town.

"We're miserable here because we have nothing," said Assa Kan, a 30-year-old mother of six from Mali, among 150 people living under tents at the Place De La Reunion since May 2.

"At night, it's really cold," she said, caressing the chapped cheeks of her 4-month-old daughter. "All the children are sick."

The square holds the largest of three camps set up recently by evicted squatters or renters turned out of condemned buildings. Nine families camp at the foot of Sacre Coeur, the Montmartre Basilica, and six live outside a local city office.

City officials, announcing their spring offensive, said squatting had reached "inadmissible" proportions.

"The city is duty-bound to solve this problem," said Jean Tiberi, deputy to Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac. Evictions are "the only way to stop the multiplication of squatters."

Within days, 300 people — nearly half of them children — were homeless.

"These people had a right to squat," said Abbe Pierre, a bearded Roman Catholic cleric who is France's premier champion of the needy. "When a man in hungry, he has the right to take bread from the baker."

Abbe Pierre's humanitarian organisation, the Emmaus Community, provided tents for the evicted.

At the Place De La Reunion, ringed with rosebushes and dotted with orange and blue tents, a siege mentality prevails. Amenities are limited to one spigot of running water, three outdoor

commodities and intermittent lighting at night via an electric wire from a nearby cafe. One tent serves as a makeshift kitchen.

Mrs. Kan and others said they would remain until the city provided a suitable alternative.

"We are confronted with the unacceptable," Bertrand Main, deputy chief of the League of Human Rights, at a news conference. "Demands for rehousing are met with a wall of silence, incomprehension and, sometimes, contempt."

'These people have a right to squat. When a man is hungry, he has the right to take bread from the baker.'

Paris proposed temporary housing for the evicted in buildings scheduled for demolition in St. Denis, a poor northern suburb. Officials there objected.

"We don't have a money problem in Paris. We have a problem of land," said Tiberi, explaining the housing shortage on French radio.

"For moral reasons ... we cannot accept the principle of rehousing squatters," Tiberi added, saying squatters were robbing legal occupants of apartment

sapce.

"It is a crime to refuse lodging in a city like Paris where several thousand apartments are vacant," said Abbe Pierre at a news conference.

The committee against poor housing, a protest group that periodically locates vacant buildings for squatters, claims there are 3,000-4,000 vacant government-subsidised units around Paris — a claim the city denies.

Officials say the number of buildings occupied by squatters, mainly African, has quintupled in three years, from 36 to 187. They admit that 41 of the 187 buildings are empty moderate rent housing complexes. About 50,000 people are on the priority waiting list for these buildings, officials say.

The housing debate comes amid skyrocketing real estate prices and charges that speculation is transforming Paris into a ghetto for the elite.

President Francois Mitterrand recently denounced those "who enrich themselves while sleeping" because they own "a good piece of land or a nice apartment."

Prices have increased so fast, the president said, "that they are starting to exclude the possibility of suitable lodging for senior executives with salaries that can reach 50,000 francs (about \$3,700) per month."

Frederica Koch and Amina Amara are among those keeping a vigil in solidarity with the homeless at Place De La Reunion.

Mrs. Koch, evicted in 1989 from the rent-controlled apartment she lived in for 25 years, is, at 58, a squatter. She lost her job as a clothes cutter during a 10-year battle to keep her home.

Mrs. Amara, a single mother with five children, has been on a waiting list for a low-rent apartment for 15 years. Evicted from one building, she and her two youngest children spent a year in a furnished hotel, then two months in a restaurant basement before squatting anew since December.

"This problem is too big for us," said Berhima Tembely, an immigrant from Senegal who was visiting the square as a gesture of solidarity. "The rich people are treating us like dogs. You have to fight to live in this world."

The price of fame

By Carl Hilliard
Associated Press

DENVER — To hear Neil Bush tell it, he's "just a Denver guy trying to make a living and raise a family," and he's bewildered and angry at the attention he's receiving.

The 35-year-old slim, tanned, blond father of three children epitomises the enterprising businessmen who came to Colorado in the early 1980s to get rich in the oil business. He is also the son of U.S. President George Bush.

"We lived month to month, begged for money from time to time, and our business was relatively dormant," Neil Bush recalls. But he relishes that time in his life.

Now, he faces a public disciplinary hearing before federal regulators in September on his role as a director of the bankrupt Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan. Some democrats are pushing for a special prosecutor to examine the case. The president is a republican.

Neil Bush has been accused of conflict of interest and failure to disclose ties to men who received loans from Silverado. He has said he has nothing wrong.

The president has defended his son's "honour" and integrity but has promised to stay out of the investigation.

Neil Bush says he is enraged that democrats are making political hay out of his predicament.

"Neil Bush is for the democrats. I'm the highest-profile guy they have to shoot at out there," he said in an interview last week.

He also expresses anger at what he calls "government mismanagement" in the way troubled savings institutions are being sold off.

Neil Bush played his most prominent role on the hot, steamy night of Aug. 17, 1988, at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans, when he delivered all of Colorado's delegates to help seal his father's nomination for president.

It was a heady moment for the third of George and Barbara Bush's four sons, and it led to

suggestions Neil Bush might have the stuff from which U.S. House or Senate candidates are made. The possibility had him shrugging and smiling and saying "maybe."

His job then, he told reporters, was to help his father's campaign. "I'd hate to be the only son to have lost his home state for his dad."

Dyslexic as a child, Bush practiced reading exercises until he was able to overcome his problem, his brother George recalled. He eventually earned undergraduate and master's in business from Tulane University.

Until a few months ago, Neil and Sharon Bush and their three children lived in a tan brick, two-story home in a friendly, established neighborhood in central Denver.

The family now lives in a new \$550,000 house on Denver's wealthy southeast side.

His downtown office is light and airy, with Western paintings and a clear view to the West, where the Rocky mountains can be seen on most days. His desk carries a name plate, "Mr. Bush" which belonged to his grandfather, Prescott Bush, when he was a U.S. senator from Connecticut.

It is more lavish than he was accustomed to when he was a partner in a fledgling exploration company, JNB Exploration Co.

JNB paid him a salary — he won't say how much — but the business was later sold, in 1989, and Bush now heads Apex Energy, also an exploration company.

"My business is oil and gas," he said.

Bush says the oil business has been interesting, and he made some profit selling lease-hold interests.

"The only problem is" he recalls with a smile, "even though we kept things going and everything was in pretty good shape in terms of operations — we didn't find any oil."

"It's a pretty high-risk business. But we were successful to the extent we managed to put prospects together and sell them, which is probably why we attracted the partners we did."

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times

Morocc in clocks fastest time of year in 3,000 metres

Czech sets world javelin record at Bislett Games

OSLO (Agencies) — After being sidelined four months earlier this year with a serious back injury Jan Zelezny certainly didn't expect a world record so soon.

The 24-year-old Czechoslovakian javelin thrower regained the mark Saturday night with a toss of 89.66 metres at the 25th Bislett Games Mobil IAAF Grand Prix track and field meet.

"I'm fit now, but I didn't think about world records before the (European) season started," said Zelezny.

After suffering the back injury Zelezny rested for four months and didn't get back into training until March.

"But I had to change my training," he said. "I couldn't lift any weights for example. But in a way it was good. The training didn't become so stereotypical."

Zelezny, 24, a former world record holder, notched the longest throw in history in the sixth and final round of the competition.

Backley, who also competed in the meet, had set the previous world mark of 89.58 metres 12 days ago in the DN Galan Grand Prix meet in Stockholm, Sweden.

It was the third time this year that the javelin mark was shattered. Patrik Bodén of Sweden set the first record of 89.10 metres in March at Austin, Texas, breaking Zelezny's mark set in 1987.

Backley finished second with 87.94 metres Saturday.

"I was quite pleased with my throwing," Backley said. "But this record is only temporary. If there had been another round I would have loved it."

It was the 49th world record set at the Bislett Stadium since 1924, but the first since 1986. Eight unofficial world records have also been set at the famous wooden stadium.

Joe Falcon of the United States proved his great potential by winning the "dream mile" just ahead of favoured Peter Elliott of Britain.

Falcon, 24, a middle distance standout with over a half dozen U.S. collegiate titles for the University of Arkansas, clocked 3 minutes, 49.31 seconds.

It was the best outdoor time of the season and less than two seconds off Steve Scott's U.S. record of 3:47.69 set here in 1982.

Elliott, who had the fastest times of the year in both the 800, 1,500 and the mile going into the race, was outkicked by Falcon and finished in 3:49.76.

Jens-Peter Herold of East Germany was third in 3:50.59.

Doina Melinte of Romania won the women's mile in 4:18.13 for another season best and just two and a half seconds off the world record.

Natalia Artimova was runner-up in 4:22.20 and Lynn Jennings of the United States, the world cross-country champion, was third in 4:24.14.

Mohamed Issangar of Morocco clocked the world's fastest time of the year in the 3,000 metres and Salvatore Antibo of Italy repeated the feat in the 10,000 metres about half an hour later.

Issangar outkicked countryman Khalid Skah down the stretch for a winning time of 7 minutes, 39.40 seconds. Skah, who had the previous fastest time in the event this year, finished in 7:40.86.

Antibo outkicked Hammoud Boutayeb of Morocco with less than 100 metres left to win in 27:25.16. Boutayeb's time was 27:25.48, also well the previous season best of 27:55.47, set by Antibo.

Carl Lewis, the six-time Olympic champion, edged European record holder Linford Christie of Britain and Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria in a razor-thin men's 100 metres.

Lewis, who was upset by Calvin Smith here last year, won in a relatively slow record of 10.26, but faced a 1.5-KPH headwind.

Christie's time was 10.27 with Adeniken a further one hundredth of a second behind.

"It was a very close race, but I

felt that I won it," said Lewis, undefeated in three 100-metre races this year. "The strong head wind was unfortunate because right now physically I think I'm the best I've ever been."

Earlier, veteran John Walker of New Zealand, who has retained top-class form for the longest ever period for a middle distance runner, said farewell to the Bislett crowd.

"This was my last race here," said Walker, who finished fourth in the 1,500 metres in 3 minutes, 38.38 seconds.

Walker, 38, who became the first sub 3:50-miler when he clocked 2:49.4 at Göteborg, Sweden, in 1975, broke one world record and one unofficial world mark at Bislett Stadium during his heydays in the 70s.

Teofilo Benito of Spain won the 1,500 Saturday in 3:37.50.

Ulf Timmermann of East Germany, a former world record holder, captured the shot put at 20.64 metres. Randy Barnes of the U.S., who broke Timmermann's record May 20 with a throw of 23.12 metres, withdrew because of injury.

Christine Wachtel and Sigrid Wodars of East Germany finished 1-2 in the women's 800. Wachtel, runnerup behind Wodars in both the 1987 world championships and the 1988 Olympics, was timed in 1:57.85.

Other winners included Johnny Gray of the United States in the 800 (1:44.64); Antonio Pettigrew, also of the United States, in the 400 (45.37); Sorin Matei of Romania in the high jump (2.32 metres); and Heike Drechsler of East Germany in the women's long jump (7.08 metres).

Lewis to make final European appearance

Meanwhile the Carl Lewis show rolls into Barcelona Monday when the double Olympic champion makes his final European appearance before the Goodwill Games in Seattle.

Lewis, who turned 29 on July 1, believes he is in the best shape of his life.

Lewis said he had felt a little heavy Saturday night because of all the travelling he has done recently.

"But I still won, that shows what condition I'm in," he said. "The American will need to stay in top condition if he is going to repulse the challenges of his exciting young compatriots Leroy Burrell and Michael Johnson."

Burrell, a disappointment in Europe last year, has shown this season just why he is the second fastest man ever at sea level.

He defeated Britain's Christie three times in succession over 100 metres and is now poised to meet Lewis over 100 metres at the Goodwill Games in Seattle this month.

"We have something of the same philosophy," Burrell said last week. "The one who wins is the one who makes the fewer mistakes."

Burrell will also compete in Barcelona before returning home and could meet Johnson in the 200 metres, confrontation which would put in severe danger Italian Pietro Mennea's 11-year-old world record of 19.72 seconds.

Johnson, fastest man over the 200 this year, pulled out of the Bislett Games, opting to run instead in Barcelona after Spanish promoters dangled a handsome financial inducement before him.

His decision upset the Bislett Games organisers and International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo, who watched Saturday's meeting.

An IAAF official said the federation would consider imposing sanctions on athletes who broke agreements at the last minute.

"We would have to examine all the circumstances," the official said. "But what we have now are athletes demanding to be treated as professionals, then reneging on professional obligations."

Spanish veteran wins 14th stage in Tour de France

MILAU, France (R) — Spanish veteran Marino Lejarreta, the most consistent rider of the great tours, won the 14th stage of the Tour de France Sunday, a day which saw no major changes in the top placings.

Lejarreta, 33, broke away on the final Causse Noir climb at the end of the 205-kilometre chase from Le Puy-en-Velay in the Massif Central to capture his first stage victory in his seventh Tour de France.

He clocked five hours 12 minutes three seconds to finish 24 seconds ahead of Miguel Indurain of Spain with Gianni Bugno of Italy third a further second behind.

Race favourites American Greg Lemond, Pedro Delgado of Spain and Eric Breukink of the Netherlands came in together 34 seconds behind Lejarreta on a quiet day after the upheavals of Saturday.

Race leader Claudio Chiappucci of Italy retained a fragile hold on the yellow jersey when he lost 13 seconds on his main chasers. His lead over Breukink was cut to one minute 49 seconds.

Lejarreta, the only top class rider who competes in the three major tours of Spain, Italy and France, completed a long awaited hat-trick.

He won a stage in the Tour of Italy in 1984 and one in the Tour of Spain two years later.

Racing in his 23rd major tour, he is currently seventh in the overall standings after finishing fifth in the Vuelta and seventh in

the Giro this year, a truly remarkable testament to his stamina.

Lejarreta, fifth in last year's Tour de France, finished in the top 20 of all three major endurance tests last year.

The stage, winding through the gorges and up and down the rugged mountains of the Massif Central, could have been daunting on another hot day.

But after Saturday's exertions in which Lemond and Breukink sustained a devastating attack to spread-eagle the bunch, the favourites were content to sit back.

"Everybody was waiting for the last climb," Lemond said. "There were a lot of attacks then but no real problems. Everybody climbed well. I'm happy with the way it turned out."

The American 1989 tour winner remained in third place overall but closed the gap on Chiappucci to just two minutes 21 seconds with one week of the race to go.

Monday's 15th stage takes the race out of the mountains in a bumpy but not too demanding 170-kilometre ride to reveal on the day before a potentially decisive stage in the Pyrenees.

The 13th stage followed a rest day in the Alps and is traditionally a slow, uneventful leg, but this year was different.

The cyclists have two more relatively flat stage in the 21-leg race, which ends on July 22 in Paris, before encountering more mountainous terrain in the Pyrenees along the Spanish border.

Knight's Baroness wins Irish Oaks

THE CURRAGH, Ireland (Agencies) — English raider Knight's Baroness, third in the Epsom Oaks horse racing classic to Salabail, battled to a neck victory in the Irish Oaks.

The filly's task was made much simpler when Hellenic, the ante-post favourite after a Royal Ascot success last month, was withdrawn Saturday less than two hours before the start because the ground was too hard.

English trainer Michael Stoute had declared Hellenic to run but connections had a change of heart after walking the course.

The ground was officially described as good to firm but some trainers were upset that the surface had not been watered.

Stoute was called in by the stewards but his explanation was accepted and no fine was imposed.

In Hellenic's absence, Knight's Baroness, the mount of Richard Quinn, was made 15-8 favourite in the 10-stong field and duly obliged her supporters, striking the front in the last 100 metres of the 2.4 kilometre event.

It was a first classic success for English trainer Paul Cole and jockey Quinn who was erasing the memory of a disappointing ride here in the 1988 Irish Derby.

Riding a colt called Insan, Quinn dropped his whip at a crucial stage and was beaten a short head by Kahyasi.

But the young Scot made no mistake Saturday as he produced Knight's Baroness with a strong late run to overhaul Italian raider Atoll, ridden by Gary Moore.

Atoll, winner of the 1,000 Guineas and Oaks in her own country, stayed on to be second at 5-1, a neck clear of 50-1 outsider assertion, trained in Ireland and ridden by Declan Gillespie.

Meanwhile in Lexington, Kentucky, Grand Canyon, headed for the Kentucky Derby in May until sidelined by injury, was humanely destroyed Saturday after contracting laminitis, a frequently fatal disease of the hoof, Overbrook Farm said.

Grand Canyon, owned by Overbrook and by trainer D. Wayne Lukas, was second behind Rhythm in the 1989 Breeders' Cup Juvenile, then won the Hollywood Futurity in 1:33, the fastest clocking for a mile by a 2-year-old in the history of North American racing.

But Grand Canyon bruised a knee in that race and aggravated the injury a month later. After winning \$1,019,540 as a 2-year-old, he was sidelined for the Triple Crown races this spring.

England gets new soccer manager

LONDON (R) — Graham Taylor, manager of Aston Villa for the last three years, was finally confirmed Sunday as the new manager of the England soccer team.

Taylor, whose appointment has been an open secret since before the World Cup finals, replaces Bobby Robson, who is taking over at Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

The move was delayed while the English Football Association (F.A.) negotiated compensation move with Villa, last season's

league runners-up.

"We are delighted to have secured Graham Taylor," F.A. Chairman Bert Millichip said. "We quickly reached the view that he was the right man to succeed Bobby Robson and we look forward to working with him."

England's seventh manager since World War II, Taylor takes over the post with the English game at its highest point in 20 years.

His predecessor Robson enjoyed mixed fortunes in eight

years in the post and was often accused of displaying excessive loyalty to out-of-form or fading players.

But Robson finally took the team, enlivened by newcomers Paul Gascoigne and David Platt, to the semifinals of this year's World Cup, where they lost to eventual champions West Germany in a penalty shoot-out.

Taylor, 45, had an undistinguished career as a player before taking over fourth-division Lincoln and becoming the youngest manager in the English League in 1972.

Prost wins British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Frenchman Alain Prost completed his hat-trick of victories for Ferrari Sunday when he drove to a controlled triumph in the British Grand Prix motor race.

Prost's win followed successive triumphs in Mexico and France and hoisted him to the head of the World Drivers' Championship standings at the halfway point in the 1990 season.

Prost now has 41 points and leads his great rival Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who finished third in a McLaren, by two points.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen, driving a Williams, was second, but the race was dominated by the duel between the two Ferraris of Prost and unhappy Briton Nigel Mansell and the frequent challenges from the McLarens of Senna and his team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria.

It was an incident-packed race with five changes of leadership, but Prost finished 39 seconds clear at Bostons after the retirements of Berger and Mansell.

Mansell led the race for two spells but was unable to establish control and was forced to pull out with gearbox failure.

He was clearly upset and said later: "I have never been so disappointed. I knew I could get around with gearbox problems. But what can you do when you have no gearbox at all?"

He added: "One car works perfectly... I must be careful what I say here... I don't know why mine has problems."

Senna led from the start when he outpaced Mansell off the grid but he spun off after 14 laps and also went into the pits for a change of tyres. It was a triumph for him to claw his way back through the field and finish third.

Prost, with typical coolness, moved through from fifth on the grid and took second place behind Mansell after 31 laps before taking the lead from his team mate after 42.

He stayed in front from there to the chequered flag with a smooth example of the professionalism which has established him as the greatest driver of his era.

Prost's victory increased his record tally of Formula One wins to 43 in 161 races and makes him favourite to retain his crown as World Drivers' Champion.

He is seeking his fourth title in six years after three previous triumphs while driving for McLaren.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8 6 ♠ A K 5 ♠ A K 5 4 3 ♠ 9 7 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Your diamond suit is not the sort worth a rebid and you can't bid no trump with two suits unstoppped. Since you have excellent heart support, even though it's only three cards long, raise to two hearts.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8 6 ♠ A K 5 ♠ A K 5 4 3 ♠ 9 7 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—You could hardly have a better minimum, so you should be prepared to cooperate with any game try partner makes. Since you are not yet sure where to play the hand now is the time to show your concentration of diamond strength while denying four-card heart support in the process. Bid three diamonds.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8 6 ♠ A K 5 ♠ A K 5 4 3 ♠ 9 7 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's club cue-bid has committed the hand to game and is a probe for a slam. By inference, hearts is the agreed trump suit. If he can do that despite the fact he holds neither ace or king of hearts, you owe him a measure of encouragement. Jump to five hearts, denying

a black-suit control and stressing the quality of your trump support.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K ♠ A 6 4 ♠ A K Q 9 3 ♠ 4 3
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 3 NT Pass Pass

What action do you take?
A.—If East is void in diamonds you might not be able to defeat four spades, so don't double. Five diamonds will almost surely go down because partner is unlikely to produce two tricks. But partner might produce one, so you should take out insurance by bidding four no trump. On the auction you are sure to get a spade lead.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K 6 5 4 3 ♠ V 6 4 ♠ Q K 9 5 ♠ A Q 10 6
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—There is a school which believes that you never make a takeout double with a five-card spade suit. Include us out, especially with a suit of this quality. We would not consider anything other than a takeout double.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J 10 ♠ A 9 8 7 5 ♠ A ♠ A K J 8 7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—As a rule of thumb, it is unwise to make a jump shift unless you have a reasonable idea about where you want to play game. Here, you may have no playable spot—the hand could be a misfit. We would be content with two clubs—the hand simply does not have enough playing strength to commit it to game.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 16, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The restless discontent that seems to permeate everyone today still allows opportunity to make real headway toward unique and progressive aims by turning over difficult situations tactfully.

your home and family early and then proceed with the details already started that can improve your property position.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There are a considerable number of acknowledgements to make with those who have been in touch with you so this is a very good day to answer them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider the various practical arrangements you have with others and continue them so that you can extract the fullest possible benefits at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get up bright and early today for it is the best time for you to make some rapid progress in attaining the various personal goals you have in mind.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get into the various private longings that are cherished by you and you can now find ways by which they can actually become a part of your daily existence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Commence the day by being in touch with as many companions as possible and go into what your various associations require to have more depth, congeniality.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider what agreements or promises you have made of a civic or credit nature and make sure you carry through so they are soon behind you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find both men and women of different experience and views from yours will be willing to lend you a hand to make progress toward anticipated ends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get into these big ideas you have for having more of this world's goods by getting together with experts who can give you push in right direction.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more openminded to suggestions made by a long time contact who has important connections in outside world and follow suggestions made.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Lots of enthusiasm today that can be productive of some unusual and long term satisfactory results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are able to get in touch with congenial friends and make arrangements for the various recreational outlets you all wish to enjoy to do so.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do whatever is necessary for

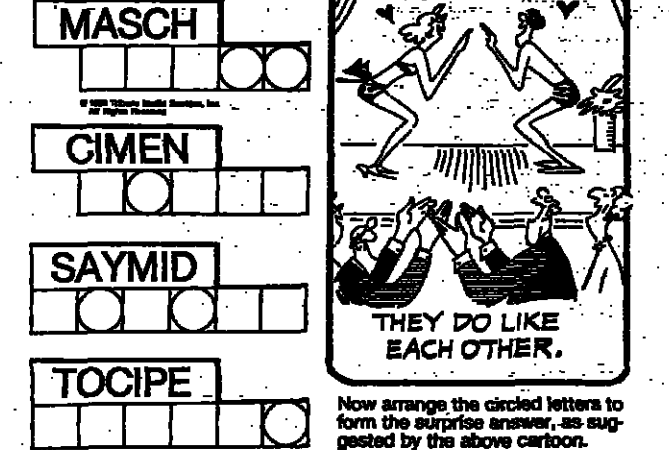
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



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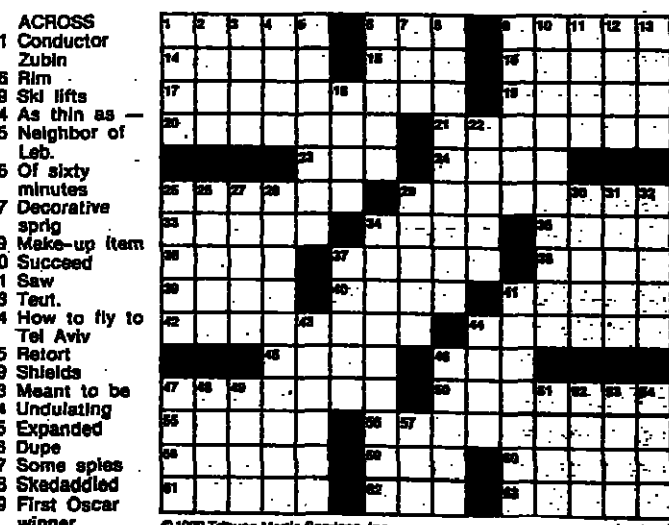
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LATHE HITCH GEYSER FRUGID

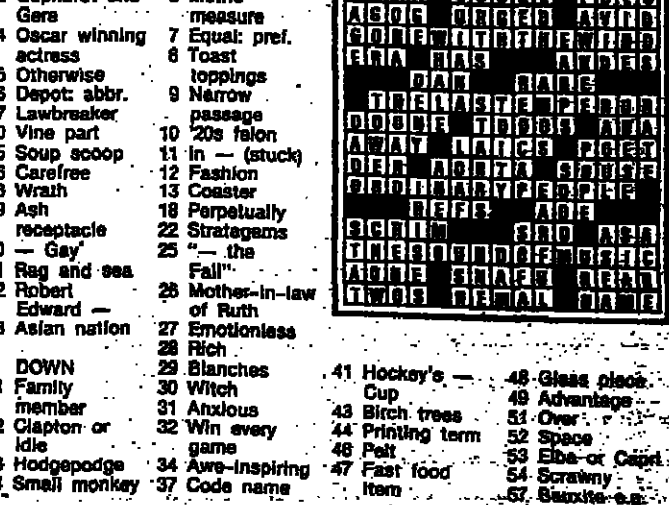
Answer: Sometimes they're a woman's arch enemies—HIGH HEELS

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved!



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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Yemen seeks funds to expand refinery

SANAA (R) — Yemen is seeking financing of \$200 million to expand an oil refinery in Aden, the economic capital of the newly unified country, industry sources have said. The project would include a pipeline network and gas plant, the sources told Reuters. The refinery now operates at only 30 per cent of its 160,000 barrel per day (b/d) capacity. President Ali Abdullah Saleh said last month the rundown refinery, built in the 1950s under British colonial rule, would be developed to supply domestic demand and exports. Aden was the capital of Marxist-ruled South Yemen, which united with the conservative-ruled North May 22. Officials expect a surge of oil exploration by Western companies in the south, where they were previously not allowed to operate. North Yemen's oil output was an estimated 185,000 b/d and South Yemen's 15,000 b/d before unification. Oil exports from the south are likely to start this year, industry sources say.

British inflation climbs to 9.8%

LONDON (R) — Britain's annual inflation rate edged steadily towards double digits in June, hitting an eight-year high of 9.8 per cent, official figures have showed. The increase in the retail price of index from 9.7 per cent in May was slightly below economists' forecasts of a 10 per cent rise in the summer. Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said last week inflation was taking longer than expected to bring down. But the underlying rate of inflation excluding home loans and poll tax — a new levy to fund local government — fell from seven per cent in May to 6.9 per cent, the Central Statistical Office said. Britain uses the underlying rate when it compares its inflation with that of other European countries. Economists have said a reduction in the figure could hasten entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

EC lifts curbs on Sofia, Prague

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Commission has said it would end quota restrictions on imports into the European Community (EC) from Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia from Oct. 1. The move followed a decision last week by the "Group of 24" Western industrialised nations to extend their programme of aid for reforming East Bloc states to Bulgaria, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, the commission, the Community's executive arm, said. "By opening up our markets we help the new democracies to help themselves," European commissioner for external relations Frans Andriessen said in a statement, adding that other countries should follow the Community's lead. A Commission spokesman said quotas would also be lifted on agricultural produce from Yugoslavia, whose industrial goods have not been subject to such restrictions since 1980. Checks on trade with East Germany were ended July 1. Quotas on Romanian exports would not be lifted until the Group of 24 decided to extend its help to that country and EC ministers approved a trade accord suspended after the violent repression of demonstrations in Bucharest.

Soviet Union will cut oil exports

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union, facing a lack of fuel for domestic use, will cut its oil exports by 140,000 barrels a day, according to Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov. Ryzhkov said the government decided in late June to cut its oil exports by seven million tonnes or 140,000 barrels a day. The cut in exports would apply to Socialist Bloc countries as well as Western nations, he said. "This will permit us to supply our agriculture," Ryzhkov said, adding that otherwise, fuel shortages would hurt the harvest. The Soviet Union is the world's largest oil producer, although production levels have been declining. The U.S. government estimated 1989 total Soviet oil output at 12.14 million barrels per day. Production has fallen because of the cost of maintaining output as well as ethnic unrest in oil producing regions such as Azerbaijan.

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Study warns Israel against government control of economy

TEL AVIV (R) — A right-wing Israeli think-tank has warned planners that failure to dismantle their state-dominated economy could undermine the immigration of Soviet Jews.

"Perestroika, which sweeps through Eastern Europe's stagnant socialist economies, continues to bypass Israel," said the report from the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.

The research body, which gave Reuters an advance copy of the report to be released Monday, was critical of the Israeli government's traditional deep involvement in all aspects of the economy.

The report, "Reordering Priorities" calls for drastic cuts in government spending and a turn towards the private sector to spur economic growth and to absorb the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to immigrate.

"Freedom and opportunity in a buoyant private sector are more effective in integrating immigrants than government control and taxpayer-financed programmes," said the report.

The study, written by Alvin Rabushka of the Hoover Institution of Stanford University in the United States, said the government goal of five per cent annual economic growth would barely exceed population increase.

"Achieving five per cent growth amounts to not much more than continued stagnation," the report said. "Anything less would be catastrophic, threatening to destroy the historic opportunity Israel faces in massive Soviet Jewish immigration."

Concern is rising over the costs of the flood of immigrants to Israel. Some 50,000 Soviet Jews arrived in the first half of this year and nearly 1.3 million have applied in Moscow for visas.

The need for extra housing has pushed up rents, prompted the government to launch a crash housing programme based on buying prefabricated buildings and spawned a series of tent-city protests.

A drastic rise in the number of immigrants has forced the government to renege an earlier proposal for absorbing 40,000 newcomers this year with a plan to handle 150,000 per year over the next three years.

This fiscal year's absorption budget is \$2.3 billion, much of it financed by increasing the size of the government deficit.

The research institute called for rewriting the current budget to slash up to \$3.1 billion from a total budget, excluding defence and debt servicing costs, of \$12.8 billion.

The changes, which emphasised scrapping the variety of subsidies now dispensed by the government, would involve closing 11 of the government's 22 ministries and reducing four others.

The report calls for eliminating widespread government price controls, privatising state-owned industry, lifting import restrictions and ending government-sanctioned monopolies and cartels.

At present, the report said: "The economy remains virtually stagnant, with little prospect for a return to the high growth of the country's early years."

Filipinos win largest U.S. maritime court award

TACOMA, Washington (R) — A U.S. judge has ordered a Japanese steamship company to pay 21 Filipino seamen at least \$40 million for coercing them into signing false contracts and receipts for wages they never received.

Lawyers said the judgment was the largest maritime wage award in U.S. history.

Richard Dodson, an attorney for the seamen, said U.S. district court Judge Jack Tanner ordered the Inui Steamship Co. to pay between \$40 million and \$43.5 million in punitive and other damages.

Inui is wholly owned by Mitsui, Japan's second-largest shipping company.

Authorities, acting on a tip from a seaman's chaplain, in January seized one of the company's ships in Seattle. The sailors accused the firm in a civil suit of engaging in a double-bookkeeping scheme that defrauded them of promised wages.

The vessel, the Pine Forest, was carrying logs from the Pacific north-western United States to Japan.

Dodson said the scheme involved millions of dollars over a period of years, prompting the judge to impose the stiff penalty. He said the seamen had been told they would be paid \$1,000 a month each but received only \$200.

The scheme worked to the disadvantage of the American merchant fleet because the Japanese companies were able to save money on wages, lawyers, for the plaintiffs said.

Ridley comments reopen debate on Bundesbank role

FRANKFURT (R) — Intemperate comments by former British minister Nicholas Ridley last week have reopened the debate about the role of Europe's most powerful central bank.

Ridley, who resigned as minister for trade and industry Saturday, had accused the West German Bundesbank of dictating monetary policy to the rest of Europe (See page 8).

He called European monetary union "a German racket to take over the whole of Europe," said the French were behaving like Germany's poodles and said giving up sovereignty to the European Community was like surrendering to Adolf Hitler.

He withdrew the remarks, made in Britain's Spectator magazine, almost immediately after publication, but his views will continue to echo around Europe's financial centres.

The Bundesbank has never denied it dominates the European Monetary System (EMS), but is adamant it never chose such a role.

"A strong mark has served as an anchor of stability for other partner countries' economic and monetary policies in the EMS," Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said in London this month.

This anchor role has been bestowed upon us, it is not ours by design, even though it was to be foreseen the mark would play a major role as an intervention currency and as a reference point for other currencies... in the system," he added.

The Bundesbank is proud of its anti-inflationary record, and its efforts within Europe have been designed to give a pan-European monetary authority the same tough discipline and fierce inde-

pendence from national or international authorities.

West Germany's annual inflation rate was 2.3 per cent in June, compared with May's 4.4 per cent in the United States and 9.8 per cent in June in Britain.

The Bundesbank's tight anti-inflation policies and strong currency has frequently provoked criticism, especially from countries reluctant to toe its strict anti-inflationary line.

Other countries have regularly been forced to match any rise in West German interest rates or risk devaluing their own currencies. Countries like France complained that they could not pursue growth-oriented policies.

More recently, the Bundesbank's role has diminished as the success of other countries in combating inflation has increased. Some European countries have changed their credit policies without so much as a glance in Frankfurt's direction.

In West Germany, fear of inflation has driven domestic interest rates up and the mark has slipped within the EMS.

Despite this, the Bundesbank continues to offer other countries advice about the shape of an

integrated Europe.

Never one to shun publicity, Poehl used a key speech in Paris earlier this year to outline his vision of an independent European central bank which, like the Bundesbank itself, would concentrate on fighting inflation.

Such a bank would contrast strongly with the Bank of France, among the least independent in Europe.

He criticised a British alternative route to European economic and monetary union in a major speech in London.

After the Bundesbank's first Council meeting in East Berlin, Poehl confidently told East Germany what it had to do to reform its creaking economy.

"Some East German companies make the wrong products for the wrong markets at costs that are not in line with the market," he said.

Financial analysts say pro-European Bundesbank comments are made by necessity rather than by design. A united Europe should come on the best possible terms, from the conservative Bundesbank's point of view.



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E. German metalworkers win big wage increases

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German metalworkers have won a big pay rise and a one-year no-dismissals guarantee in a deal that averted a damaging strike but could slow the shake-out of inefficient former communist-run industry.

In the latest bout of labour unrest since a July 1 economic merger with West Germany, tens of thousands of shop workers demonstrated to demand protection against redundancies when state-owned retail chains are broken up and privatised.

Meanwhile a state agriculture organisation has said that many collective farms had stopped paying wages because they had run out of money. Employers representing the

trustee authority in charge of selling off East German industry granted the I.G. Metal trade union an average 22.7 per cent pay raise backdated to July 1 with an extra five per cent from October. They also agreed to cut the working week to 40 hours from 43.

"We cannot really afford this," said Lothar Heinzmann, the employers' negotiator. "We'll have to work hard from now on."

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Indian premier withdraws resignation

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh withdrew his offer to resign after conferring Sunday with leaders of his National Front Alliance, the group's chairman announced.

The chairman, N.T. Rama Rao, made the announcement to reporters. The prime minister's resignation offer had created a crisis for the minority government. Singh's critics had suggested his resignation offer may have been a ploy to gain leverage in a dispute with the deputy prime minister, his chief rival. Rao made the announcement after cabinet ministers and leaders of the five parties comprising the National Front convened at Singh's house. The political tempest was touched off by a power struggle that pitted Singh and most other alliance leaders against Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. The issue was Lal's efforts to advance his son's political career in Haryana state. The son, Om Prakash Chautala, was reappointed chief minister of Haryana Thursday, two months after he was forced to resign when more than a dozen people were slain during a local election in his own constituency. Three of Singh's cabinet ministers resigned Friday in protest of Chautala's reappointment. On Saturday, Singh offered his own resignation and six more ministers resigned. Singh sent his offer of resignation to Somnappa Rayappa Bommai, president of the Janata Dal, the largest party in the National Front. Bommai rejected it, but Singh declined to withdraw the offer until the National Front

meeting Sunday afternoon.

The party's efforts to retain Singh as prime minister reinforced the view that the prime minister was not serious about resigning and was just trying to force a showdown with Devi Lal, his biggest foe in the government.

The Times of India said "even if the prime minister pulls off a coup and ensures his survival in office, developments since last Thursday will have shattered his image as a knight in shining armour."

The government "may manage to pull back, but the nation will have witnessed a sorry spectacle of chicanery, pettifoggery and ineptitude," the newspaper said Sunday in a front-page editorial.

The Independent Daily also published the results of an opinion poll conducted Saturday that went in Singh's favour.

The poll found that 60 per cent of the 2,000 people interviewed in five metropolitan areas wanted Singh to stay as the prime minister. No margin of error was given.

Singh's resignation offer sent stock market prices plunging in informal trading Saturday. Stock markets were closed for the weekend, but the Times reported that share prices dropped 13 per cent.

Singh led his party in ousting Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in last November's national elections.

Neither party got a majority of the seats in parliament, but the National Alliance formed the government on the strength of outside support by a right-wing Hindu fundamentalist party and left-wing parties. The common ground of the three groups was their dislike of the Congress Party.

Car bomb kills 1 in Medellin; police seize 2 tonnes of cocaine

BOGOTA (AP) — A car bomb exploded late Saturday in front of police headquarters in the cocaine-trafficking centre of Medellin, killing one civilian and wounding 14, police said.

Meanwhile, police reported seizing more than 2 tonnes of cocaine, packaged and ready to be sent to the United States. They said it was hidden in an underground storage locker on a farm in northern Colombia. In the northwestern city of Medellin, the car bomb with more than 80 pounds (36 kilograms) of dynamite exploded near the police headquarters, causing damage to nearby shops and a school, said the city's police chief, Col. Jorge Ferrero. In a live radio interview, Ferrero said a bystander died at a

local hospital after being wounded in the bombing. Three of those wounded were in critical condition at the hospital, he said. He said there were no police casualties.

Police were searching for a suspect who activated the bomb and fled, he said. The bombing was the fifth this year in Medellin. On Friday, Medellin police deactivated a car bomb packed with about 450 pounds (200 kilograms) of dynamite. Since Friday, police reported seizing more than 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms) of dynamite that the Medellin drug cartel was reportedly planning to use for car bombings. Authorities blame the Medellin cocaine cartel for car bombings

and other terrorist attacks that have killed hundreds of people in the last 11 months. The violence followed a government crackdown on the cocaine trade.

A police statement, read by the RCN radio network, said the 4,223 pounds (1,915 kilograms) of cocaine was seized Friday in a raid on a farm near Cauca, about 400 kilometres north of Bogota.

Colombian authorities have found and destroyed more than 28,540 kilograms of cocaine this year. The latest seizure occurred as about 2,000 police officers and army soldiers continued to search in the central Magdalena River region for Pablo Escobar, the reputed leader of the Medellin cartel.

Pessimism clouds Paris talkson Cambodia

PARIS (R) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council again seek a Cambodian peace in Paris talks this week, but without the optimism that launched their quest for a settlement earlier in the year.

The United States, France, Britain, China and the Soviet Union are pursuing a diplomatic solution to a decade of guerrilla war in the South East Asian state. "The mood has changed, the chances of peace appear a little more elusive each day — but we must go on," said a French diplomat.

After failed efforts to reconcile the four warring Cambodian factions, agreement at a first five-day meeting to involve the United Nations had raised hopes of a swift end to the jungle war.

That was in January. Since then political obstacles have all but halted momentum and once again much depends on the mood of the Khmer Rouge, the country's notorious former rulers, who show little sign of wanting to give up their guerrilla war.

The Khmer Rouge, blamed by the West for more than one million deaths when they ruled Cambodia in the mid-1970s, is by far the strongest member of the guerrilla alliance headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. He leads one of the non-Communist factions in a loose coalition seeking to oust the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Talks by senior officials of the big-five states earlier this year produced a blueprint for potentially the biggest and most daring U.N. peace plan ever.

But Cambodia is proving to be more of a headache than anticipated for the U.N., and the four warring factions, which had been billed as the star attractions of the fifth round of talks Monday and Tuesday, will not be present.

"We did not invite them. We felt it was not the time to get them into the negotiations," a British diplomat said.

"I have no sense of moving forward but a sense of regression," said a U.S. official after preliminary talks in New York last week.

Since their last New York meeting in May, the five have hit two key hitches in efforts to unravel Cambodia's stalemate.

A bid to wrench a ceasefire agreement from the four factions and accord on an interim U.N. administration broke down in June when the Khmer Rouge walked out of talks in Tokyo.

Thatcher reportedly warned of German 'bullying'

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's advisers told her this year that Germans could be egotistical bullies but that on balance she should be "nice" to them, a British newspaper reported Sunday.

The Independent on Sunday reprinted what it said was a confidential minute of a briefing for Thatcher in March on what to expect from a unified Germany.

The document, said to have been written by Thatcher's foreign policy adviser, Charles Powell, listed German characteristics as "angst, aggressiveness, bullying, egotism, inferiority complex, sentimentality."

Germans, it said, were insensitive, self-obsessed and inclined to self-pity but they also wanted to be liked.

The report was published after Trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley resigned from Thatcher's cabinet Saturday in an uproar over fiercely anti-German remarks he made in a magazine interview last week.

Ridley had said proposed European monetary union was "a German racket to take over Europe" and giving up British sovereignty to the European Community was like surrendering to Adolf Hitler. He described the French as "poodles" of the Germans.

The Independent on Sunday said Powell's memo was an outspoken and startling document. His minute of the briefing said participants felt Germany was not likely to make any more territorial claims for the foreseeable future.

But the document added: "It still had to be asked how a cultured and cultivated nation had allowed itself to be brainwashed into barbarism. If it had happened once, could it not happen again?"

However, it said the weight of evidence and the argument favoured those optimistic about life with a united Germany.

"The overall message was unmistakable: We should be nice to the Germans."

Ridley made clear Saturday that while he regretted the language he used in a magazine interview he stood firm on his opposition to European monetary union.

Publication of the interview drew a chorus of calls for his head within Thatcher's Conservative Party as well as from opposition parties.

North Korea prepares for reunification fete

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea has begun extensive preparations for reunification of the two Koreas, including inviting South Korean dissidents to a major rally in a move that concerns leery officials across the border.

The North Korean government's official news service said a preparatory committee "for the peace and reunification of the country" met Saturday and discussed the selection of delegates, speeches and a document to be adopted by an August symposium on peace and reunification. The report was monitored Sunday in Tokyo.

North Korea also is preparing to open a part of its border with South Korea, which condemns the plan as propaganda. Officials are worried that the previously announced reunification conference for youths is designed to encourage dissidents in the South.

The report called for the South Korea-based Coalition for National Democratic Movement and the National Council of Student Representatives, both radical dissident groups that Seoul officials believe are covertly linked with North Korea, and other organisations to participate despite opposition from Seoul.

Preparations for a "night of culture," production of poems and songs about reunification, and a "joint meeting" to be held during the festival also were discussed Saturday by committee Chairman Yun Gi Bok and others, the news agency said.

Filipino police kill army officers in drug bust

MANILA (AP) — Security officials shot and killed two senior military officers and seized \$10 million worth of heroin in a bizarre drug bust that some soldiers claim was a set-up.

The operation began late Tuesday when police and National Bureau of Investigation agents closed in on what they said was a major heroin sale in the parking lot of a commercial centre in suburban Makati.

Gunfire broke out and three of the "dealers" were slain, according to the Bureau of Investigation. Police also arrested a woman from a prominent family who was allegedly involved in the drug ring.

It should have been a resounding victory in the government's fledgling war on drugs but it quickly turned into a major scandal.

The three dead "drug dealers" turned out to be Col. Rolando de Guzman, deputy chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command; his intelligence chief Maj. Franco Calanog and a military informant.

Bureau of Investigation Director Alfredo Lim, the former Manila police chief, said the three were trying to sell \$10 million worth of heroin to an American, who escaped. He showed reporters what he said was the heroin seized.

Lim is considered one of President Corason Aquino's closest allies and has been mentioned as a leading candidate to head a planned civilian National Police Force. The integrated national police is now part of armed forces.

De Guzman's colleagues in the military were outraged by the killings. They claimed the three

were shot at close range, raising doubts about the police version of a "shootout."

"Based on the evidence so far gathered, it was clear that what happened... was cold-blooded murder," said Brig. Gen. Virgilio David, chief of the military's Narcotics Command. "The only question now is why they were killed."

Angry soldiers from de Guzman's command threatened reprisals.

"I am having trouble controlling them," said Brig. Gen. Gumercindo Yap, chief of the Northern Luzon Command. "I have 40,000 men here restive over the incident. My men are very angry."

Faced with a crisis in the ranks, army Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa ordered the arrest of the police and Bureau of Investigation agent pending an investigation.

De Villa issued the arrest order while several of the policemen were at the presidential palace receiving decorations from Aquino for past accomplishments.

De Villa's support is crucial for Aquino in preventing future coup attempts. There have been six unsuccessful attempts to overthrow Aquino since she took power in 1986.

Mrs. Aquino has appointed a presidential commission to investigate the shootings. On Saturday, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon said Lim and de Villa had agreed to keep quiet until the investigation is completed.

Several critics said the shootings raise questions about police methods. Last year, Sen. Ernesto Herrera said drug lords frequently use legal loopholes or bribery to escape conviction.

Riots aimed at toppling government—Kenyan aide

NAIROBI (R) — A Kenyan cabinet minister has said riots that killed 20 people last week were aimed at toppling President Daniel Arap Moi's government, a Nairobi newspaper reported Sunday.

Transport and Communications Minister Joseph Kamotho, also secretary general of the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU), was quoted as saying there was a foreign-backed plot to oust Arap Moi by force.

Mohawks' war with Quebec unsettles Canadians

MONTREAL (R) — A fierce gunbattle between heavily-armed Mohawk Indians and Quebec police over plans to expand a golf course has unsettled Canadians already on edge after a constitutional fiasco last month.

The clash erupted when police stormed Mohawk roadblocks erected in the Quebec resort town of Oka to stop the town from expanding a golf course onto their ancestral land.

Police retreated after losing one of their men, but about 1,300 riot-equipped officers still surrounded the Mohawk stronghold.

Indians across the country cheered the Mohawks' defiance, the second time in as many months that Indians have flouted Canada's tidy legal procedures.

Last month a Cree Indian effectively buried the Meech Lake constitutional accord, which would have given Quebec special powers to preserve its French-speaking culture. Elijah Harper of Manitoba used procedural delays to prevent the provincial assembly from voting on the accord by the June 23 deadline.

About 600 tanks and other armoured vehicles lined the avenue or paraded noisily along the route. The vehicles represent about 15 per cent of France's armoured forces.

The loudest applause was reserved for the bearded companies of Foreign Legionnaires, dressed in desert khakis and their trademark white kepis.

The Napoleonic-uniformed Republican Guards, who provide ceremonial security at the presidential palace, also drew cheers as they trotted down the Champs-Elysees on cavalry horses, flashing their gleaming chrome sabers.

Also featured were state-of-the-art Mistral ground-to-air missiles.

A platoon of World War II-era tanks, similar to those that liberated Paris from the Nazi occupation 50 years ago, also were on display. One bore the name De Gaulle, in tribute to wartime leader Gen. Charles de Gaulle. France is celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth this year.

Refugees: Albania changing, but fear remains

BRINDISI, Italy (AP) — A factory worker could wear a crucifix in public. A mother noticed she could complain about food shortages without going to jail. And a student began to talk openly with friends about the Romanian revolution.

Changes have come recently to Albania, Europe's last bastion of hard-line Communist rule, according to refugees interviewed Saturday shortly after they arrived in Italy.

But they said their nation of 3.2 million remains a land of fear and that the government remains committed to Communism.

"The government has done things only with words," a 29-year-old mother said on condition of anonymity. "For ideas, the desire of the people to live better, they haven't done a thing."

The woman was one of 4,500 people ferried Friday from Albania, where in their quest for freedom they had escaped into Western embassies, some braving police gunfire.

A day later, 804 refugees were in an abandoned army camp outside Brindisi waiting to be resettled in Italy. About 3,200 travelled on to West Germany and others to France.

At the camp, known as Restino, the Albanians stood in line for new clothes, ate steaming plates of Lasagna, showered away days of grime and reflected on the society they fled.

The mother, watching her 3-year-old son scampering amid rows of cots in a makeshift dormitory, said the government had become slightly more tolerant as shortages of meat, fruit and

vegetables grew.

"A few years ago, even if you just said you lacked something, you could go to jail," she said.

But criticising the government directly was still forbidden, she said. Like most others interviewed, she declined to give her name for fear of endangering relatives still in Albania.

On the other side of the room, a young factory worker sat on a cot beside her physically handicapped little brother. A cross on a white string dangled from her neck.

She said she started wearing it two months ago, when the Albanian government of Ramiz Alia introduced limited reforms, including some religious freedom and travel abroad. Albanians had not been permitted those freedoms for 45 years.

Albanians, she said, took heart from last year's democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe, particularly the revolt in Romania, previously one of the region's harshest Communist regimes.

Many Albanians were able to follow the events on Italian and Yugoslav television.

"There's so much discussion but so much fear," she said in Italian. "People are afraid the police will beat us, that they'll get years in jail for one word."

She said anger at the government was rising.

"I don't know, I'm so afraid a war will break out, they pit people against each other," she said.



Limits on abortion fail to achieve goal — report

WASHINGTON (R) — Making abortion a crime fails to curb the practice so governments should instead improve the health and welfare of women and children, said a new study. "Laws and policies that restrict access to abortion don't curb the abortion rate — instead they cause women to die," said the study by the Worldwatch Institute. The institute is a non-profit environmental research group funded by foundation grants and the sales of its publications. An estimated 50 million abortions a year are performed worldwide, half of them illegal, and they occur in every country no matter what the law, the group found. A 30-year trend toward liberalisation in the laws governing abortion has brought about significant improvements in public health and lower fertility worldwide, it said. However, though some 35 countries have eased abortion restrictions since the late 1970s, the issue remains intensely controversial in many parts of the world, pitting the rights of the fetus against a woman's right to control her own body. Worldwatch said a common sense rather than a moralistic approach to abortion would yield immediate societal benefits.

Lloyds backs baby adoption insurance

SAN JOSE, California (R) — The famed brokerage house Lloyd's of London is now willing to provide insurance against a change of heart. Lloyd's is test-marketing adoption insurance for California couples who want to adopt a child but face losing thousands of dollars whenever a birth-mother decides to keep her baby. Art Adams, a San Jose agent with Jardine Insurance Brokers, said his firm plans to write policies backed by the London-based brokerage house for five "test-case" couples in Los Angeles. Couples sometimes spend their life savings arranging for private adoptions but never receive the children because the birth-mothers decide to keep them. The policies will cost from \$500 for a \$5,000 policy to \$1,250 for a \$20,000 policy. They will be available statewide perhaps as early as next year, if the test-case policies are successful. A private adoption in California costs about \$8,000, and attorneys estimate that three to five per cent of birth-mothers change their minds either as the delivery date approaches or soon after the child is born.

6 escape in Soviet jail break

MOSCOW (R) — Six criminals were on the run on Friday after seizing three machine pistols and ammunition from guards and escaping from a van taking them from court to a Moscow prison, the Soviet government daily Izvestia reported.

Virus hits college computers

TOKYO (AP) — "Friday the 13th" computer virus that struck earlier this year infected 100 personal computers at Waseda University, but a university spokesman said Saturday the bug was detected before causing damage. "There was no damage, but we will reprogramme about 200 computers (out of 400) before the next Friday the 13th in September 1991," said Keiji Sakagami, spokesman for the Tokyo school. Damage was forestalled when an alert user noticed that a virus, which hit the campus in April, was still in the system, Sakagami said. He said the centre managed to circumvent the problem by programming the internal clocks on the IBM 5500 computers to skip from the 12th to the 14th, he said. The virus, a programme that can destroy data or hinder operations, appeared to be relatively mild. Computers on campus that were incapacitated by the virus programme Friday, April 13, were fixed by simply resetting them, Sakagami said. He did not say how many computers were affected in the earlier incident. University officials speculate that the virus infected the system when users copied programmes off their own floppy disks into hard disks in the university computers.